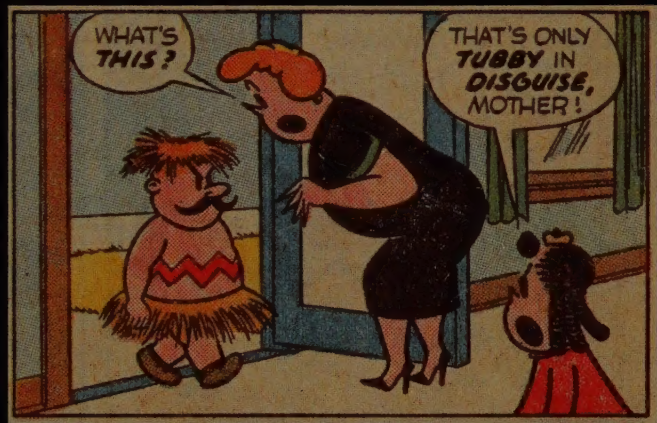


A Smithsonian Book of COMIC-BOOK COMICS



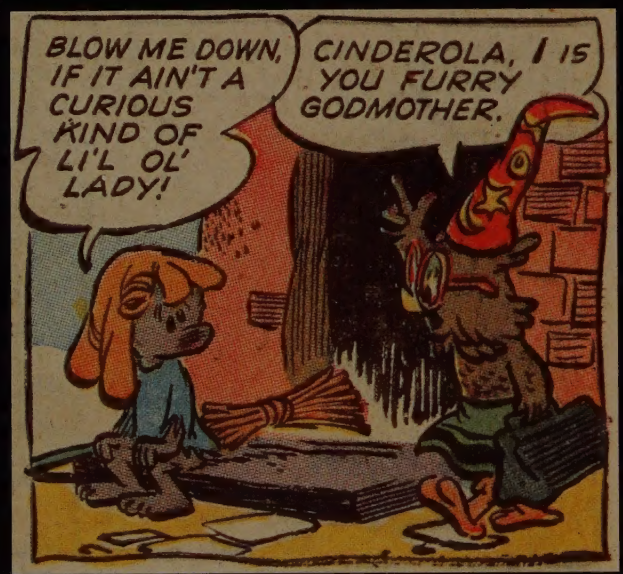
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© 1951 Walt Kelly

Edited by Michael Barrier and Martin Williams

A Smithsonian Book of Comic-Book Comics

Michael Barrier
and
Martin Williams,
editors

A companion volume to the popular *Smithsonian Collection of Newspaper Comics*, this book is a tribute to the fun and creativity of the comic strip's offshoot, the comic book. It presents outstanding features published in American comic books from near their beginnings (1938) to the advent of the Comics Code (1955). The editors have chosen the stories contained herein for their quality, and the book is not so much a survey or sampler as a permanent statement about the uniqueness and the artistic merit (and artistic pleasure!) of the comic book at its best.

There are thirty-two complete stories—almost 300 pages in color—among them the very first appearances of Superman, Batman, and Pogo Possum. And there are Captain Marvel, Donald Duck and his Uncle Scrooge, the Spirit, and the fantastic Plastic Man.

All are reproduced from their first comic-book printings, and the color faithfully recreates the comic-book pages, evoking great nostalgic appeal for everyone who read comic books as a child. For those unfortunates who were not in on those halcyon years . . . the golden age of the comic book . . . the editors offer a delicious taste of what they have been missing, including five of the most admired stories from the E.C. line, two of them from the early *Mad* magazine. And the authors give long-overdue recognition to some features—Little Lulu, Scribbly, and the Pie-Face Prince—never before included in reprint volumes.

A look through the table of contents indicates the authors' high regard for the humor features, even those that treated the conventions of the comic book itself and the super-heroes with a healthy and hilarious disrespect. It is evident that Barrier and Williams would head their personal list of major talents among comic-book creators with Carl Barks (Donald Duck), Walt Kelly (Pogo), John Stanley (Little Lulu),

A Smithsonian Book of

COMIC-BOOK COMICS

Edited by
Michael Barrier
and
Martin Williams

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Acknowledgments

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And the following have an especially strong claim on our gratitude.

John Benson, Rick Durell, Don and Maggie Thompson.

Introduction

The comic book as we know it today—with its slick covers, newsprint-paper insides, and crude colors, all in a package measuring about seven by ten inches—was a long time in being born.

The comic book was the child of the newspaper comic strip, and the comic strip was born in the United States late in the nineteenth century. Several elements that had been separately present in European culture for centuries—drawings in sequence that told a story, “balloons” filled with dialogue, caricature—were combined by American cartoonists, as what quickly came to be called comic strips, in American newspapers beginning in the 1890s. Within a few years, daily comic strips and Sunday comics sections in color were widely featured in American newspapers.

Some newspaper comics offered extended narratives—stories that were told over many days, and in many drawings—almost from the start. And although the full-color Sunday comics were often presented in a grid pattern—rows of boxed drawings, or panels, of the same size—cartoonists sometimes dealt with the comics page as a whole, giving their panels different shapes and arranging them in unusual ways.

Many ingredients of the comic book—the comic-strip form, the extended narrative, the page as a basic unit along with the panel—were thus present in newspaper strips from around the turn of the century. (The Sunday comics section—very thick and colorful in those early days—was itself a comic book of a sort.) But just as the comic strip took a curiously long time to assume its definitive shape, so too did the comic book.

For about three decades, publishers experimented with formats of many kinds. They first reprinted newspaper strips in books (both hard and soft covers), making what one might call early comic books. In 1929, one publisher tried something different—a weekly publication made up of completely new comics. Called *The Funnies*, it died after a few issues, perhaps because it was tabloid size (twice as large as a modern comic book) and so looked too much like a Sunday comics section.

In 1933, comic books of approximately the modern size and shape were published by Eastern Color Printing Company—but as premiums, to be given away by retailers and manufacturers to their customers. No one thought about selling these comic books directly to readers until M. C. Gaines, a salesman at Eastern Color, tested the market by putting ten-cent price stickers on a few copies and leaving them at two newsstands. The comic books quickly sold out, and this led—after a few false starts—to the publication of

Famous Funnies No. 1 in May 1934. *Famous Funnies* was sold on newsstands for a dime, and it was soon being published on a monthly schedule. It was the first true comic book in the modern sense.

But, like the premium comic books that preceded it, *Famous Funnies* was composed of reprinted newspaper strips. The first comic book made up entirely of new material did not appear until early in 1935; this was *New Fun* No. 1. In later years, comic books with new material came to dominate the field, eclipsing the comic books made up of reprints.

So, depending on the definition one uses, the first comic book was published anywhere from early in the century to as late as 1935. But the real turning point in the comic book's history probably came in the summer of 1932.

Jerry Siegel, a student at Glenville High School in Cleveland, and his classmate, Joe Shuster, had become friends because of a shared interest in comic strips, particularly heroic fantasies like *Tarzan* and *Buck Rogers*. They began to make comic strips of their own; Siegel wrote and Shuster illustrated. As Siegel later told the story to a writer for the *Saturday Evening Post*, the idea for the new strip came to him one hot night in 1932, as he was trying to fall asleep:

"I am lying in bed counting sheep when all of a sudden it hits me. I conceive a character like Samson, Hercules, and all the strong men I ever heard tell of rolled into one. Only more so. I hop right out of bed and write this down, and then I go back and think some more for about two hours and get up again and write that down. This goes on all night at two-hour intervals, until in the morning I have a complete script."

That morning, Siegel rushed to Shuster's house, and they whipped up the script and the drawings for twelve installments of a daily newspaper strip—two weeks' worth—to submit to newspaper syndicates. The strip was called *Superman*. The established syndicates were uniformly unflattering in their assessments of Siegel and Shuster's samples and *Superman* gathered a large pile of rejection slips. When *Superman* finally found a home, in 1938, it was in the first issue of a monthly comic book, *Action Comics*, wherein the strips had been cut up and the panels rearranged to make a thirteen-page feature.

Within a short time, *Action Comics*—with *Superman* in each issue—was selling almost a million copies every month, the bimonthly *Superman* comic book was selling well over a million copies per issue, and the character had spread from comic books to radio and the movies. And to the

newspapers—by 1941, *Superman* as a daily strip signed by Siegel and Shuster, was running in 230 papers.

If, in the mid-1930s, just one syndicate editor had come to a different decision and given *Superman* a test run, the history of comic books would surely have been different. Had *Superman* squeezed onto the newspaper comics pages before 1938, the strip probably would have wound up in a reprint comic book, and a second-hand *Superman* of that kind could not have changed comic books the way that *Action Comics* and the *Superman* bimonthly did.

Superman alerted publishers to the riches to be gained from offering readers the larger-than-life costumed super-hero, and within a couple of years the newsstands were filled with comic books starring such characters, and comic books themselves had become big business. Some of the new heroes were super-human, like *Superman*, although they usually had fewer powers than *Superman* did, and some of them had powers that *Superman* did not (the ability to burst into flame, for example, or to stretch one's body into all sorts of improbable shapes). Other heroes were not super-human, but had well-developed muscles and specialized skills; they were not the heirs of *Superman* so much as of the masked, law-into-their-own-hands vigilantes (the *Phantom*, the *Lone Ranger*, the *Green Hornet*, and others) who had become popular through comic strips, radio, and pulp fiction. However, the new comic-book vigilantes were clad in costumes far more garish than simple masks. The exemplar was *Batman*, whose adventures became the lead feature in *Detective Comics* (published by National, the company that brought out the *Superman* titles) a year after *Superman's* debut. *Batman* quickly became the second most popular of the super-heroes; his bimonthly comic book was selling 800,000 copies per issue by 1941.

Not all comic-book heroes had the sustained success of *Superman* and *Batman*, but starting in the early 1940s other kinds of comic books, from many different publishers, found favor with millions of readers. The Walt Disney characters Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck began appearing monthly in *Walt Disney's Comics and Stories* in the fall of 1940, and other comic books with animated-cartoon characters soon followed. Another genre was the comic book with teenage characters; the *Archie* feature, which first appeared in 1941 as a filler in a super-hero comic book, spawned a multitude of imitators. The western—that staple of Americana—made the transition to comic books with ease, and cowboy movie stars like Roy Rogers and Gene Autry became comic-book stars as well. Romance comic books flourished in the

postwar years, sharing the appeal of radio soap operas and confession magazines.

Of the many new genres, the one that ultimately had the greatest effect on the industry was the crime comic book. Crime was always present in the super-hero comic books—the heroes usually proved themselves to be heroes by defeating criminals—but in the new crime comics, the emphasis was on the crimes themselves. A wave of such comic books started with *Crime Does Not Pay* in 1942 and crested in the postwar years. The success of the frequently lurid and violent crime comic books encouraged one publisher, E. C., to go a step further, and in 1950 it introduced three horror titles—*The Crypt of Terror*, *The Vault of Horror*, and *The Haunt of Fear*. Other publishers quickly scented a bonanza, and the comic racks filled up with bloody axes, severed heads, and rotting corpses.

Comic books had been criticized in print since 1940 or so; because most of the readers were children, some people worried that comic books—crude and violent as many of them were—might be damaging young minds. The crime and horror comic books were found especially alarming, and a storm of indignation finally struck the industry with full force in 1954. Comic books were dumped on bonfires; comic books were denounced in Congress; comic books were solemnly condemned by psychiatrists as the root of a host of social evils. (And, more important for business, distributors started refusing to accept some comic books from the publishers.) As the movie producers had done twenty years earlier, the comic-book publishers responded to charges of immorality by drawing up an extremely strict code and entrusting its enforcement to a panel recruited from outside the industry. Only one major publisher—Dell, whose comic books starred such licensed characters as Donald Duck and the Lone Ranger and had attracted little criticism—could afford to shun the new Comics Code.

The adoption of the Comics Code in October 1954 marked the end of sixteen years of flamboyant success for the comic-book industry. Many publishers left the business in the 1950s, and total circulation fell sharply. Despite occasional bursts of prosperity (like the one that accompanied the public's interest in the *Batman* television show of the 1960s), comic books have never come close to equaling their popularity in the 1940s and early 1950s. Once ubiquitous on newsstands and in drug stores, variety stores, and supermarkets, comic books in recent years have been slipping slowly out of sight.

Even when comic books were at the peak of their success,

very little of that success trickled down—in the form of money or artistic freedom—to the writers and cartoonists who were producing the magazines.

For the most part, comic books did not attract established, main-line magazine publishers. They attracted publishers that were already on the fringes—companies that specialized in pulp fiction or movie-fan magazines or, at best, mass-market children's books. Such publications were produced mostly according to formulas, with the formulas determined by whatever sold well. The publishers were accustomed to dealing with formula writers, and everything that passed through their hands was therefore treated like hackwork. In such an atmosphere, there was not much incentive to try to make comic-book stories into artistic statements.

And if a feature turned out to have great commercial value, it was the publisher, not the artist or writer, who profited. (Siegel and Shuster were paid only ten dollars a page for the *Superman* story that was published in *Action Comics* No. 1—and they were required by the publisher to sign away all rights to the character. Although they continued to work on the *Superman* comic books and strips, it was as employees only.) The artists and writers who worked on comic books were often not allowed to sign their work, and many saw comic books only as a rung on the ladder leading up to a contract for a syndicated newspaper strip, or to writing for radio or slick magazines, or to a career in commercial art.

In short, there was no reason to believe that the comic book, when it was flourishing in the 1940s and 1950s, would give birth to stories of enduring value. But it did.

The comic books' readers can take part of the credit. Readers often responded with delight to those few comics that broke free of the formulas or turned them to new purposes. *Captain Marvel*, *Uncle Scrooge*, *Little Lulu*, and the early *Mad* won the allegiance of hundreds of thousands of readers. But of course the readers could not bring such comic books into being by themselves.

On at least one occasion, a group of comics creators—supported by an enlightened publisher—set out to do work well above the industry norm. That happened in the early 1950s at E.C., the company that spawned the horror-comic boom. Cushioned by the profits from E.C.'s crime and horror titles, the company's editors and artists put their best efforts into science-fiction and war comic books that were aimed at more mature readers (and did not sell as well as crime and horror). E.C.'s patience with slow-selling titles paid off spectacularly when the satirical *Mad*, edited

and written by Harvey Kurtzman, became a best seller after a rocky start.

Another cartoonist did not have to seek out a mature audience; it came built in. Will Eisner's *Spirit*—the adventures of a masked crime-fighter—was distributed as a small comic-book section with Sunday newspapers, and as such was read by adults as well as by children—perhaps more by adults than by children. Although Eisner worked under severe deadline pressures—turning out a seven-page story every week—he worked under few pressures of any other kind, and many episodes of *The Spirit* were so formula-free that the title character played only a limited role in them.

But outstanding stories usually emerged in another way. A single cartoonist was hired to perform a specific, limited task; often—but not always—he was hired to both write and draw his stories. The cartoonist set out to do the work in the spirit of a craftsman; and slowly, he became something more than a craftsman.

For example, a few cartoonists started with conventional super-heroes—C. C. Beck with Captain Marvel, Jack Cole with Plastic Man—and put them at the center of stories that were far more witty and charming than comic-book conventions had seemed to permit. Other cartoonists, like Walt Kelly and George Carlson, found havens in comic books intended for very young children. Many such comic books were published in the 1940s, especially by Dell, which brought out *Animal Comics*, *Fairy Tale Parade*, *Raggedy Ann and Andy*, and *Santa Claus Funnies*. It was in these low-key Dell comic books that Kelly perfected the skills that he put to use in his famous *Pogo*. Unlike Kelly, who worked in comic books in the early stages of his career, Carlson came to comic books—to *Jingle Jangle Comics*—after many years as a cartoonist and illustrator. He saw—and seized—an opportunity to cap his career with very free and inventive stories about such zanies as the Pie-Face Prince.

Other cartoonists wrote and drew humorous features to be used as “comic relief” in titles that were dominated by characters meant to be taken more seriously. Both Sheldon Mayer and Basil Wolverton filled this role in the 1940s—Mayer with this *Scribbly* feature, Wolverton with *Power house Pepper* and other features. Since they worked on the edges of the spotlight, Mayer and Wolverton could indulge comic fancies even to the point of mocking the super-heroes that were the mainstay of the industry.

In the 1940s, it was common for a cartoonist to be paired with an existing character and to draw the stories with that character in issue after issue, perhaps for years. Such

pairings did not lead inevitably to distinguished work; but sometimes, a gifted cartoonist could find unsuspected possibilities in an established character. That happened when Carl Barks was assigned to the *Donald Duck* feature in *Walt Disney's Comics and Stories*, and when John Stanley was asked to write and draw the new *Little Lulu* comic book. Both cartoonists turned out brilliant stories in which the familiar characters were transformed and enriched.

Other cartoonists, too—far more than could be represented in this book—did comic-book work that reflects high levels of both craft and caring.

Comic books did not seek out truly original talents. But in its heyday, the field was so large and so fluid that talented people could find ways to do exceptional work—and, sometimes, extraordinary work.

Our volume is intended to be not so much a survey or a sampler as a statement about the comic book at its best. Therefore, most of our choices are here because of our own convictions about their quality. We considered several thousand stories in making our selections. One or the other or both of us read all, or almost all, of the comic-book work of some of the creators represented here (Barks, Stanley, Kelly, Carlson) and large selections from the others. We also sought and received valuable advice from several people whose names you will find in our acknowledgments. But the choices here are our own.

To reduce the criteria for our selections to a few words would be difficult, but perhaps we can say that we have looked for compelling stories whose creators have made use of the medium itself—who have made their words and pictures work together to achieve results not possible in any other medium.

It will not come as a surprise, to anyone who has glanced at this volume's table of contents, that we think most highly of the humor features, even those that treated the conventions of the comic book itself and the concept of the super-heroes themselves with humor. And it will soon be evident also that our own list of the major talents of the comic book would begin with Carl Barks, Walt Kelly, John Stanley, C. C. Beck, Will Eisner . . .

Our cut-off date for this collection has been the adoption of the Comics Code in October 1954 (the first comic books that had been subjected to the Code's requirements were published in the spring of 1955). Nothing published after the Code took effect will be found here. The adoption of the Code marked a distinct change in the industry, although some comic books with real vitality—like Stan Lee's collaborations

with Jack Kirby and Steve Ditko in the Marvel super-hero comics (*Fantastic Four*, *Amazing Spider-Man*) of the mid-1960s—have been published under the Code.

Inevitably there are dozens of popular features that are not included in this volume; *Blackhawk* and *The Heap* are two much-admired examples. We have been forced to exclude the work of many highly regarded artists; Alex Toth, for one. Many artists were not well served by the writers whose scripts they illustrated, and we have felt that the features included in this book should be distinguished in writing as well as drawing. There are also genres and types of comics that we have not represented. We have no romance comics and no westerns. There are no teenage comics here, and hence no examples from the very durable *Archie* magazines. We include no examples of the comics based on classic novels, plays, and poems, and none of the comics based on movies or—except for the Disney ducks—on the supposed adventures of movie stars, such as Bob Hope, Jerry Lewis, or others. We have also avoided those comics that were based on newspaper strips—those that offer not reprints but new material about their characters.*

All of the features in this book are, of course, comic-book originals. And it is our conviction that although some may show the work of assistants, none were in any sense ghosted, and all are ultimately the work of the men we have identified as the authors.

But enough. It is high time for the reader to begin to enjoy that work.

Michael Barrier
Martin Williams

* Those latter magazines, incidentally, were often turned out by the syndicate that distributed the strip and were probably never seen by the newspaper strip's author or authors. A few conscientious strip artists did directly supervise their comic-book ghosts. And a small few even worked, with assistants, on the comic-book adventures of their characters.

About “Superman”

As we have seen, comic-book originals began to appear in 1935; the first was a magazine called *New Fun*. In its first issue, *New Fun* (its name was soon changed to *More Fun*) was anything but impressive. Some of its features had a professional look; more of them looked like the work of promising amateurs; and some seemed to be the work of amateurs of little promise. Many of them were indeed the work of eager teenagers in their conception, their scripting, and their drawing. But from *More Fun* came the magazines *New Adventure*, *Detective Comics*, and *Action Comics*, and from these came the whole line of National Periodical Publications, now called DC Comics and now part of a huge conglomerate.

Two things intervened to make all that possible: the arrival of the feature called *Superman* in 1938 and the one called *Batman* in 1939, both in comic books published by National Comics. Indeed, at second hand, the sustained success of these features probably made a whole industry possible and, thus, at third hand made the contents of this book possible.

Superman, as we have said, came from Jerry Siegel, who wrote it, and Joe Shuster, who drew it. They had been contributing to *More Fun* and *Detective Comics* since 1936, but they originally intended *Superman* to be a newspaper strip and had submitted it unsuccessfully to almost every syndicate there was. Harry Donenfeld purchased it for *Action Comics* and had its daily-format panels pasted into a thirteen-page feature. Three years later *Superman* was appearing in three comic books simultaneously and still other *Superman* adventures had newspaper distribution as well.

The idea of a secret identity for Superman (he is otherwise, of course, Clark Kent, “mild-mannered reporter”) could have come from such heroes of pulp fiction as the Shadow and the Spider or their radio counterparts like the Green Hornet or from the several films based on the Zorro character—but, in the Scarlet Pimpernel of the British novelist Baroness Orczy, the idea dates back earlier than they.

Philip Wylie’s 1930 science-fiction novel, *Gladiator*, has often been suggested as Superman’s inspiration. An equally handy suggestion could have come from John Carter, the hero of Edgar Rice Burroughs’s Martian adventures. Carter was an American mysteriously teleported to Mars in the 1860s. There he discovered that the lesser pull of Martian gravity made his earthling’s muscles exceedingly powerful: he could leap to great heights, run in great strides, and fight with superior strength. Substitute Krypton for Mars, reverse

the idea, and one has Kryptonian Clark Kent-Superman on earth, "able to leap tall buildings at a single bound." Indeed, in his initial conception, superior strength and leaping power on earth, plus a skin impenetrable to bullets, were Superman's super powers. The ability to fly unlimited distances and X-ray vision—such powers came later.

On the other hand, one does not have to look for conscious sources for *Superman* or look too far to account for his appeal. The promotional material for the 1978 *Superman* movie made the matter virtually specific in the blurb, "with Marlon Brando as Jor-El, who gave his only son to save the world." Intended or not (and the allusion would not *have* to be conscious), only the word "begotten" seems to be missing from the sentence.

Superman: conceived in a magic land in the sky (the planet Krypton), from a superior group of beings and fathered by a wise and powerful member of that group (Jor-El), threatened in his infancy with death (the destruction of Krypton), sent to earth, raised in humble surroundings (the farming Kent family), the possessor of great powers that he uses to save mankind.

Superman is one version of the hero with a thousand faces—to employ the title of Joseph Campbell's excellent book on the subject—and his appeal should therefore not surprise us. But Superman is a crude version of the hero; if you will, an elementary one. Unlike his more developed analogues in all the world's great religions, Superman does not offer love or goodwill, self-knowledge or contemplation as keys to man's salvation. He offers his own physical powers. Ultimately Superman's message for man rests only in his own superior strength and lies in his power to be an enforcer of his own judgement of what is good and what is evil.

For our Superman choice here, rather than jump forward to his later appearances in his own *Superman* comics, we have chosen the less frequently reprinted first appearance in *Action Comics* No. 1, with Siegel's episodic scripting (designed for daily newspapers, remember) and Shuster's cartoon-oriented drawing style. Superman's origin is barely sketched; Krypton is unnamed; Kent's newspaper is called the *Daily Star*; and although there is a "Lois," there is no Perry White and no Jimmy Olsen.

M.W.

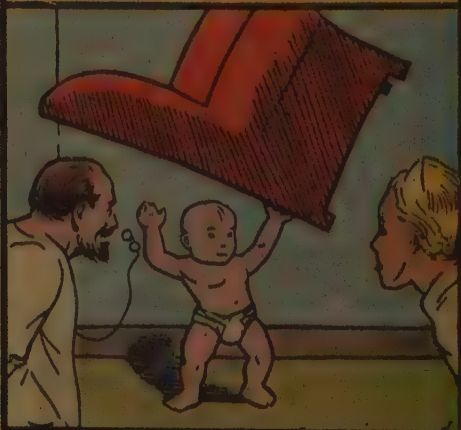


AS A DISTANT PLANET WAS DESTROYED BY OLD AGE, A SCIENTIST PLACED HIS INFANT SON WITHIN A HASTILY DEvised SPACE-SHIP, LAUNCHING IT TOWARD EARTH!

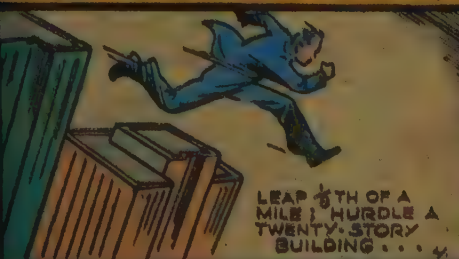
WHEN THE VEHICLE LANDED ON EARTH, A PASSING MOTORIST, DISCOVERING THE SLEEPING BABE WITHIN, TURNED THE CHILD OVER TO AN ORPHAN-AGE



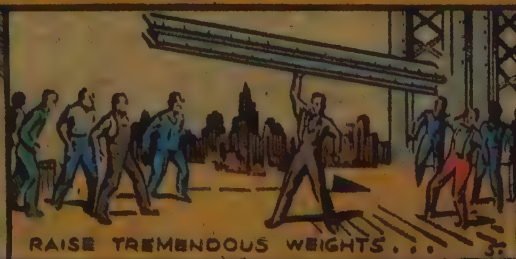
ATTENDANTS, UNAWARE THE CHILD'S PHYSICAL STRUCTURE WAS MILLIONS OF YEARS ADVANCED OF THEIR OWN, WERE ASTOUNDED AT HIS FEATS OF STRENGTH



WHEN MATURITY WAS REACHED, HE DISCOVERED HE COULD EASILY:



LEAP 1/2 MILE & HURDLE A TWENTY-STOREY BUILDING...



RAISE TREMENDOUS WEIGHTS...



... RUN FASTER THAN AN EXPRESS TRAIN...

AND THAT NOTHING LESS THAN A BURSTING SHELL COULD PENETRATE HIS SKIN!

EARLY, CLARK DECIDED HE MUST TURN HIS TITANIC STRENGTH INTO CHANNELS THAT WOULD BENEFIT MANKIND AND SO WAS CREATED...



A SCIENTIFIC EXPLANATION OF CLARK KENT'S AMAZING STRENGTH

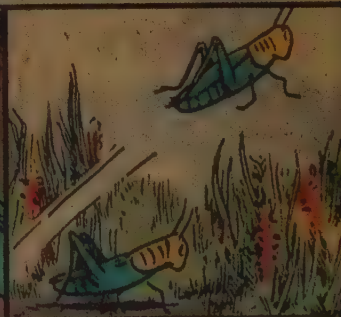
KENT HAD COME FROM A PLANET WHOSE INHABITANTS' PHYSICAL STRUCTURE WAS MILLIONS OF YEARS ADVANCED OF OUR OWN.

UPON REACHING MATURITY, THE PEOPLE OF HIS RACE BECAME GIFTED WITH TITANIC STRENGTH!

--INCREDIBLE? NO! FOR EVEN TODAY ON OUR WORLD EXIST CREATURES WITH SUPER-STRENGTH!

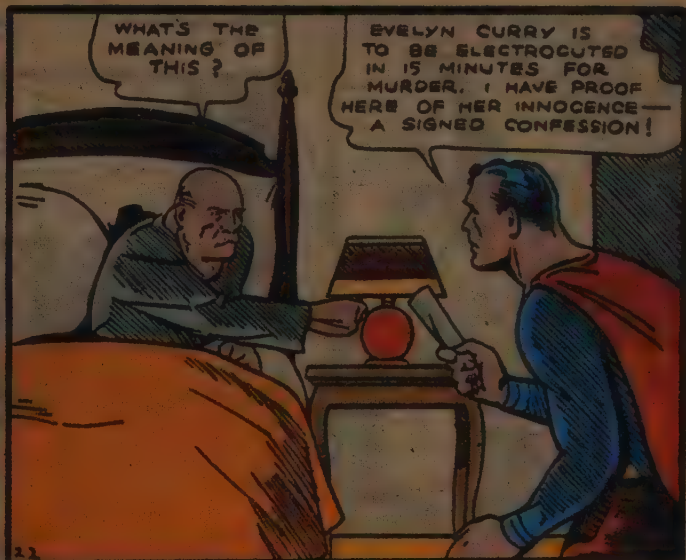


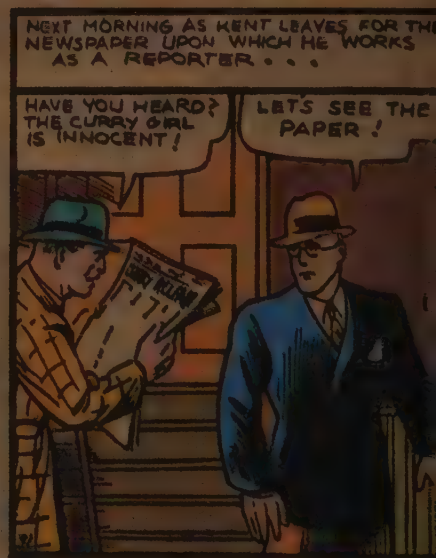
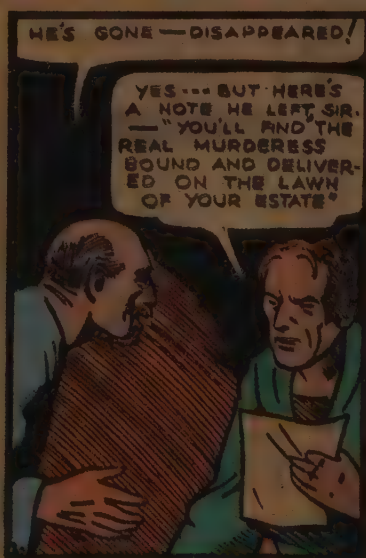
THE LOWLY ANT CAN SUPPORT WEIGHTS HUNDREDS OF TIMES ITS OWN.



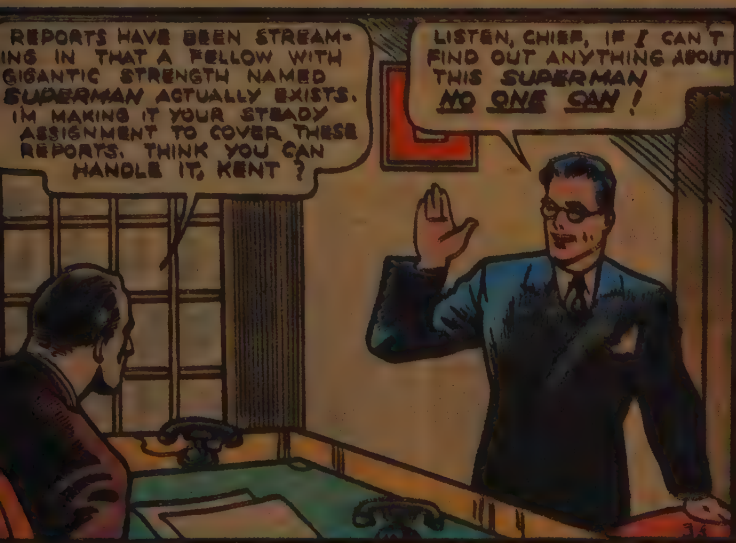
THE GRASSHOPPER LEAPS WHAT TO MAN WOULD BE THE SPACE OF SEVERAL CITY BLOCKS

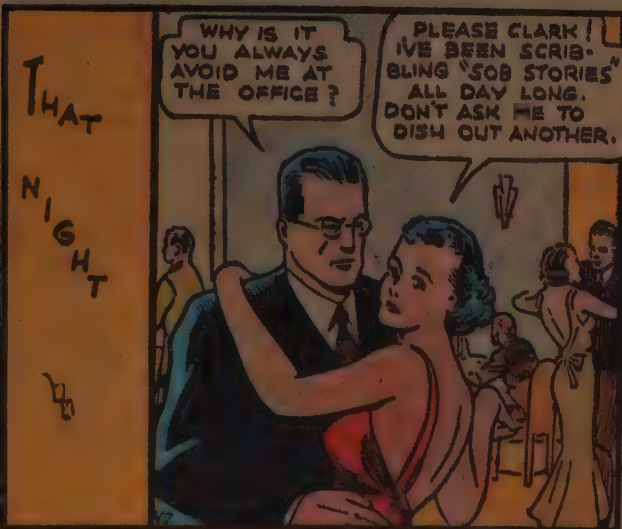
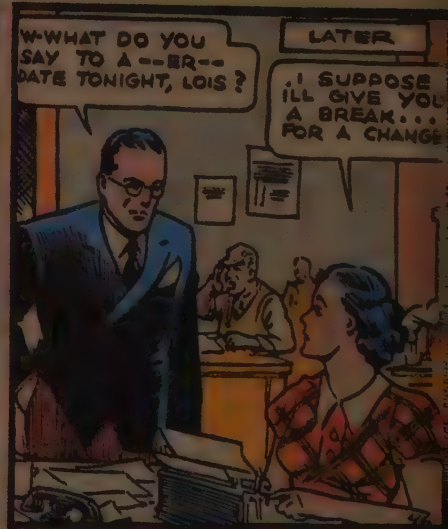


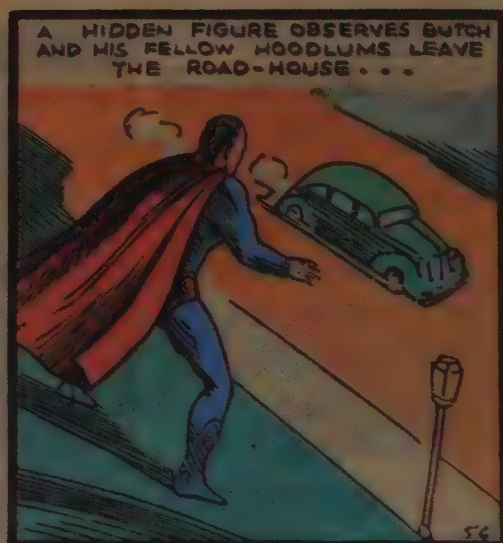
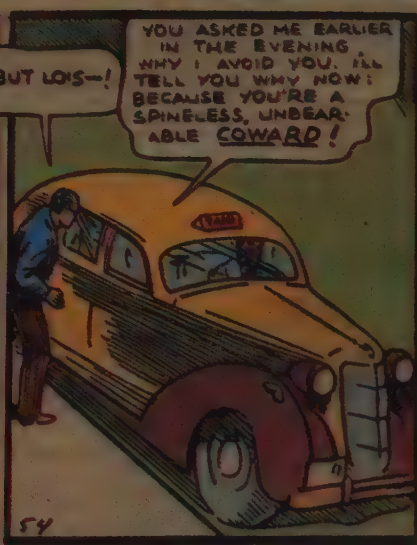


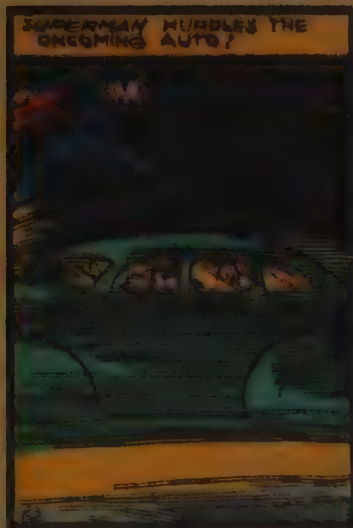
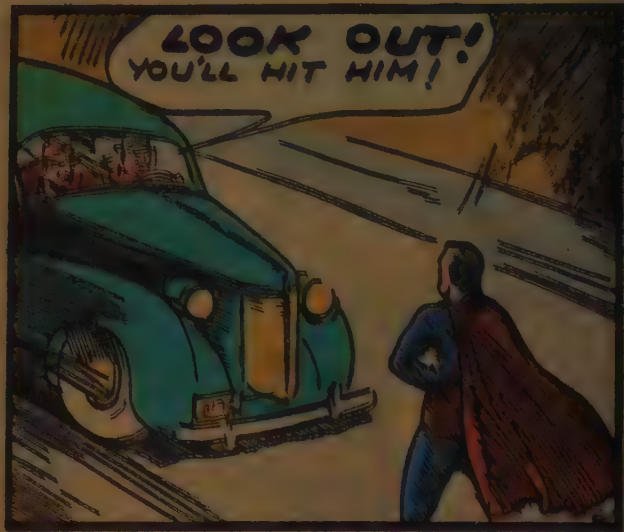
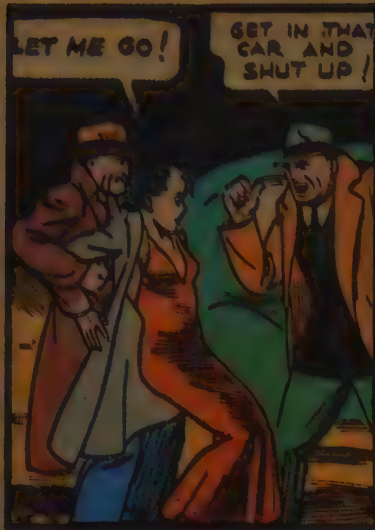


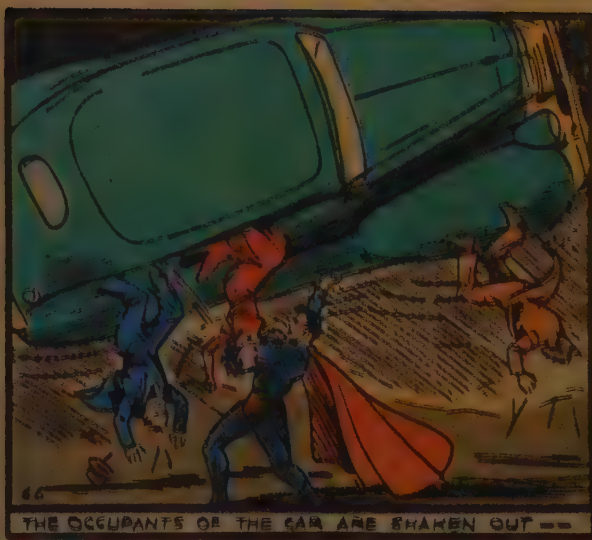
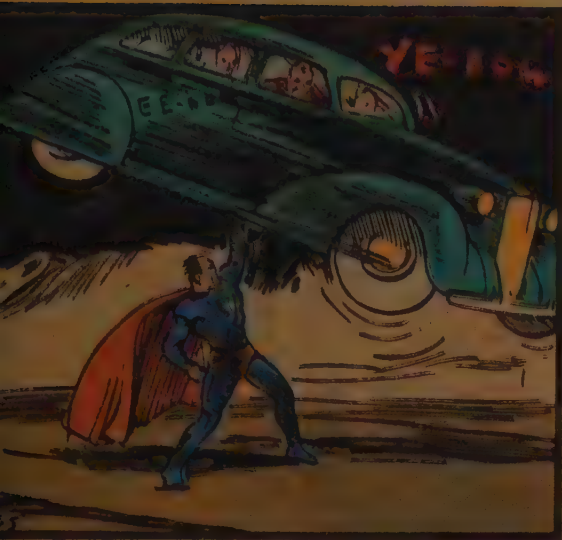
THE DAILY STAR OFFICE IS REACHED...











THE OCCUPANTS OF THE CAR ARE SHAKEN OUT --



--AND THE CAR, ITSELF, SMASHED TO BITS!

NEXT,
SUPERMAN
OVER-
TAKES
BUTCH
IN ONE
SPRING..



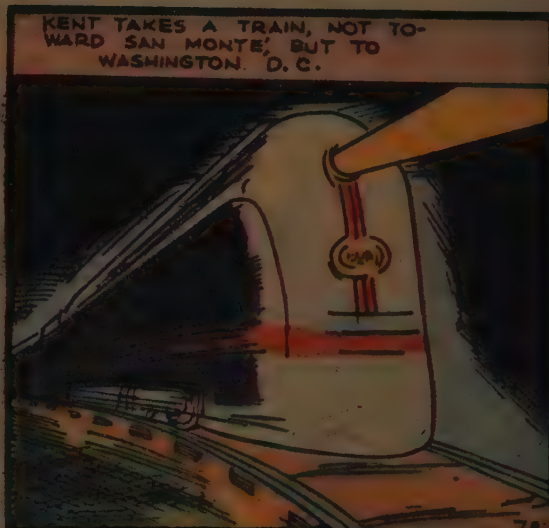
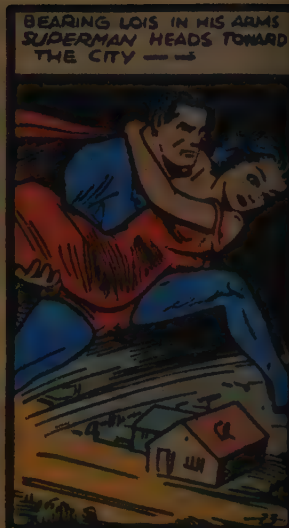
JUST A MINUTE, BUTCH!



DO YOU MIND?



THIS WILL TAKE
BUT A FEW
SECONDS!



IN THE CAPITOL CITY, HE
TENDS A SESSION OF
CONGRESS, SITTING IN
THE GALLERY

IS THAT SENATOR
BARROWS SPEAKING?



UPON LEAVING THE SENATE CHAMBERS,
CLARK SNAPS A PICTURE OF A FUGITIVE
MAN SPEAKING SWIFTLY TO SENATOR
BARROWS

WHEN CAN
I SEE YOU?

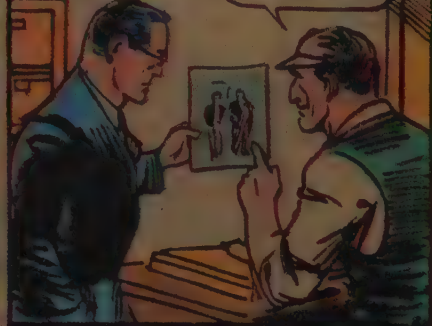
I TOLD YOU NEVER
TO SPEAK TO ME
IN PUBLIC!...UH...
MY HOME...TONIGHT
AT 8:30



AT THE "MORGUE" OF A LOCAL
NEWSPAPER...

WHO'S THE CHAP
SPEAKING TO
SENATOR
BARROWS?

WHY, THAT'S
ALEX GREER, THE
SLICKEST LOBBYIST
IN WASHINGTON.
NO ONE KNOWS
WHAT INTERESTS
BACK HIM.



I'VE TOLD YOU TO
AVOID ME IN PUBLIC.
WHAT WOULD PEOPLE
THINK IF THEY KNEW
I HAD ANYTHING TO DO
WITH YOU?

QUIT SPUTTERING!
I HAD TO SEE YOU.
TELL ME: DO YOU
THINK YOU'LL SUCCEED
IN PUSHING THE BILL
THRU?



THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT!
THE BILL WILL BE PASSED
BEFORE ITS FULL IMPLICATIONS
ARE REALIZED. BEFORE
ANY REMEDIAL STEPS CAN
BE TAKEN, OUR COUNTRY
WILL BE EMBROILED
WITH EUROPE.

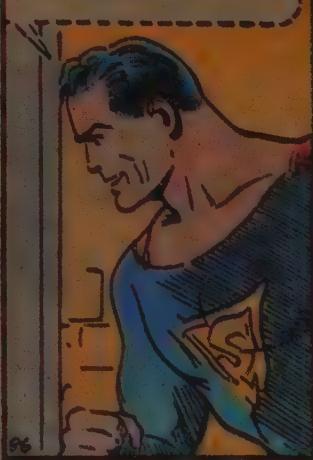
FINE!
WE'LL TAKE CARE
OF YOU FINAN-
CIALLY FOR THIS!



I SUPPOSE YOU'RE
GOING TO BE WELL
TAKEN CARE OF
YOURSELF?



YOU BET HE
WILL!

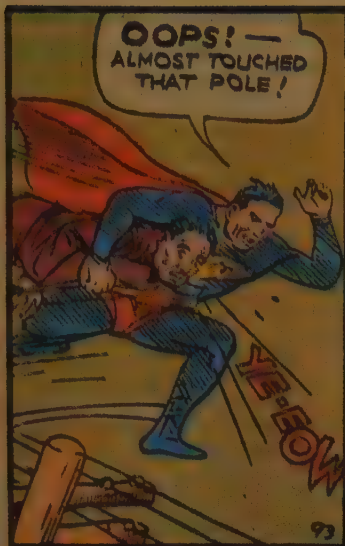


UPON
LEAVING
BARROWS,
GREER
IS
CONFRONTED
BY
SUPERMAN

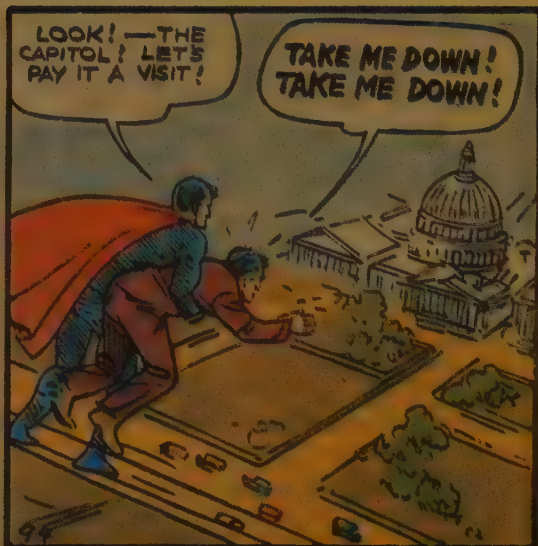




-- NOT UNLESS THEY TOUCH A TELEPHONE-POLE AND ARE GROUNDED!



OOPS! -- ALMOST TOUCHED THAT POLE!



LOOK! -- THE CAPITOL! LET'S PAY IT A VISIT!

TAKE ME DOWN! TAKE ME DOWN!



WHAT A MAGNIFICENT VIEW!

HELP! HELP!



I WONDER IF WE COULD JUMP ALL THE WAY TO THAT BUILDING?

NO! DON'T!



DESPITE GREER'S FRENZIED PROTESTS, SUPERMAN LEAPS OUT INTO THE NIGHT!

MISSED -- DOGGONE IT!

TO BE CONTINUED

AND SO BEGINS THE STARTLING ADVENTURES OF THE MOST SENSATIONAL STRIP CHARACTER OF ALL TIME: **SUPERMAN!**



A PHYSICAL MARVEL,
A MENTAL WONDER,
SUPERMAN IS DESTINED
TO RESHAPE THE DESTINY
OF A WORLD!

Only in
ACTION COMICS
CAN YOU THRILL
AT THE DARING
DEEDS OF THIS
SUPERB CREATION!
**DON'T MISS
AN ISSUE!**

About “Batman”

Just as we have included Superman’s first appearance, we have also selected Bob Kane’s first six-page account of *The Bat-Man* (as it was called) from *Detective Comics* No. 27. And even less than the first Superman appearance is it concerned with its hero’s fictional origin.

The details of the Batman’s creation are somewhat obscure and even controversial. National Comics editor Whitney Ellsworth frankly wanted a bizarre character who would be as popular as the company’s Superman. He went to Kane, who had been working regularly with writer Bill Finger, and between them they worked out the Batman.

A bat-costumed night-stalker had appeared more than once in pulp magazines—on either side of the law. And Kane, incidentally, points to a striking analogy in his early Batman depiction and Leonardo’s notebook designs for his flying devices.

Batman was, by day, Bruce Wayne, a man with inherited millions, a rather bored character who was friend to the city’s Police Commissioner Gordon. Acting on information he casually gathered from Gordon, Wayne became the Batman by night, a self-trained strongman, gymnast, and acrobat, with high intelligence—a costumed vigilante who preyed on the fears, superstitions, and insecurities of criminals to stalk them and turn them over to the police (or occasionally, in the early days, to shoot them himself).

Wayne, it was later revealed, had been orphaned when his well-to-do parents were killed in a street holdup, and he decided to devote his life to fighting crime, or rather, of course, to one-man vigilante justice. The feature’s other regular characters, Alfred, Kane’s butler, and Robin, the Boy Wonder (a young orphaned circus acrobat whom Wayne adopted), came later.

So did the colorful recurring criminals: The Joker, the Penguin, the horrifying Two-Face, and the rest. And there the inspiration, like the inspiration for the feature’s flat, angular, poster-like drawing style, was in part Chester Gould’s *Dick Tracy* newspaper strip. As *Batman* evolved, a brooding, threatening quality was sustained in its pre-dominantly black, night-time panels.

Kane had begun his comic-book career at age twenty; at first it was mostly devoted to humor strips, plus a couple of thrillers he worked on with Bill Finger. He remained with *Batman* well into the 1960s. Meanwhile, the feature’s quick success had led to several comic books, to the employment of artist Jerry Robinson to share the work, to a newspaper strip version, to two movie serials—long before the campy TV version of the 1960s.

M.W.

THE BAT-MAN

THE CASE OF THE
CHEMICAL SYNDICATE.

by **Bob Kane**

THE "BAT-MAN", A MYSTERIOUS AND ADVENTUROUS FIGURE, FIGHTING FOR RIGHTEUSNESS AND APPREHENDING THE WRONG DOER, IN HIS LONN BATTLE AGAINST THE EVIL FORCES OF SOCIETY... HIS IDENTITY REMAINS UNKNOWN.



THE HOME OF COMMISSIONER GORDON, WHO AT THE MOMENT IS ENTERTAINING HIS YOUNG SOCIALITE FRIEND, BRUCE WAYNE.

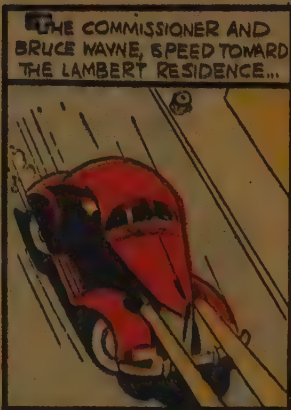
WELL COMMISSIONER, ANYTHING EXCITING HAPPENING THESE DAYS?

-NO-O-EXCEPT THIS FELLOW THEY CALL THE "BAT-MAN" PUZZLES ME!

HELLO...WHAT'S THAT? LAMBERT, THE CHEMICAL KING... STABBED TO DEATH? HIS SON'S FINGER PRINTS ON THE KNIFE?...I'LL BE RIGHT OVER!

- TALK ABOUT SOMETHING EXCITING... OLD LAMBERT HAS BEEN MURDERED AT HIS MANSION... I'M GOING THERE NOW, LIKE TO COME ALONG?

OH WELL, NOTHING ELSE TO DO, MIGHT AS WELL



THE COMMISSIONER AND BRUCE WAYNE, SPEED TOWARD THE LAMBERT RESIDENCE...

HELLO SERGEANT, EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL?

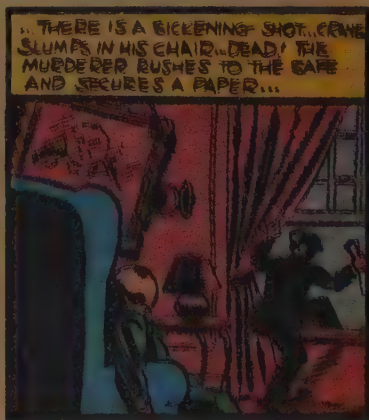
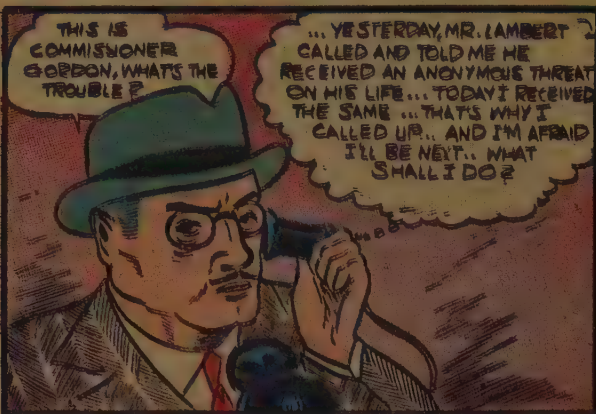
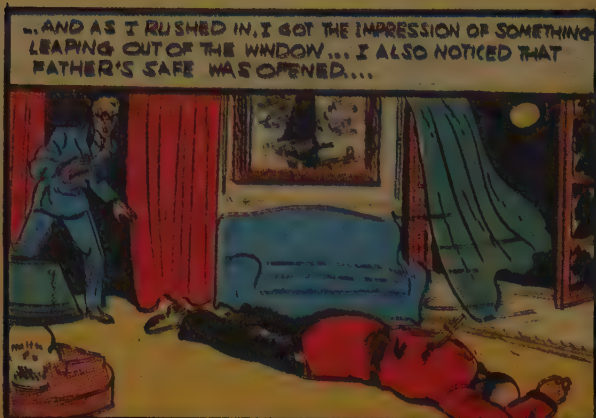
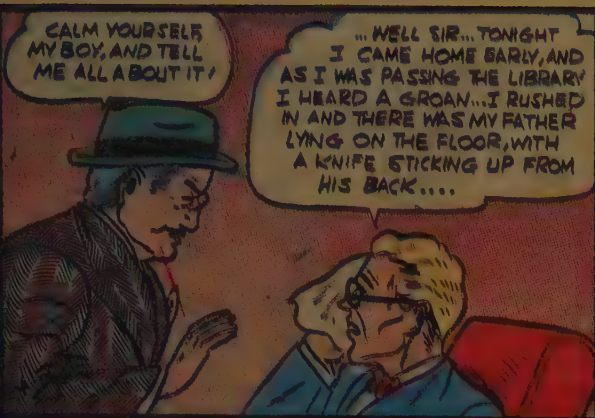
YES SIR, WE'VE GOT YOUNG LAMBERT IN THE BACK ROOM!

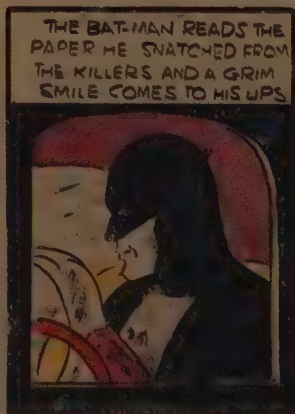
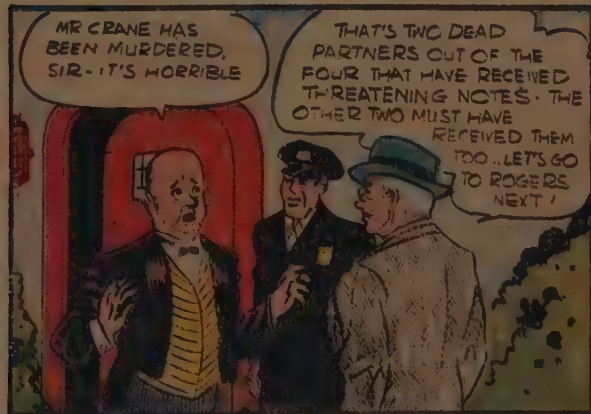
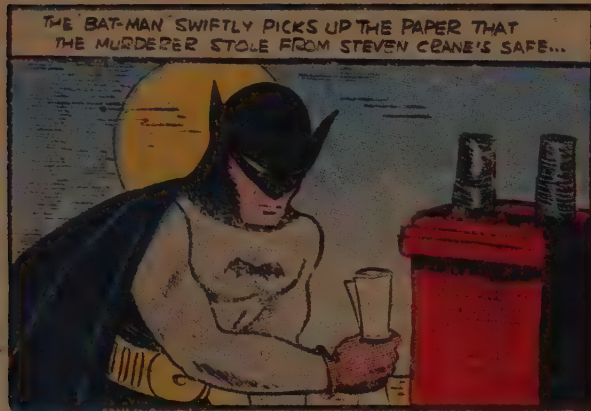
... AND AFTER A THOROUGH EXAMINATION OF THE SCENE OF THE CRIME, THE ROOM BECOMES BUSY WITH THE USUAL POLICE ROUTINE...

WELL I'M FINISHED IN HERE, LET ME TALK TO YOUNG LAMBERT

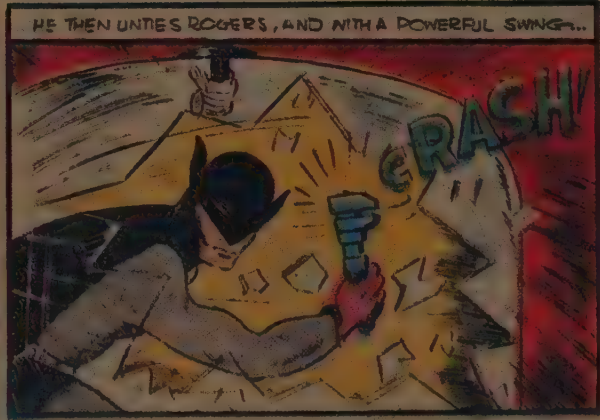
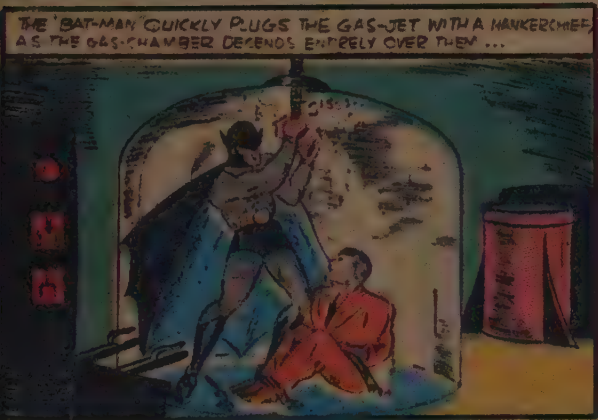
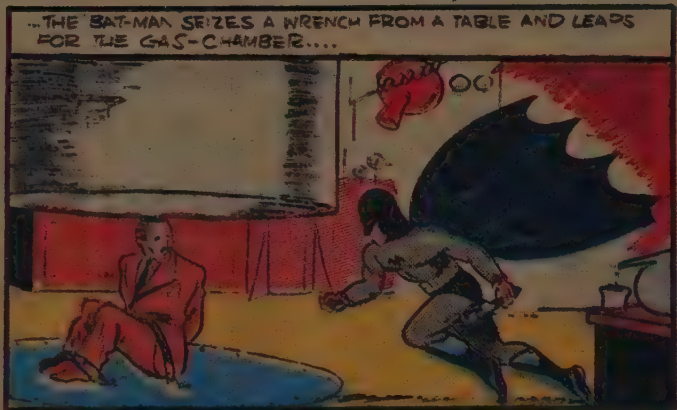
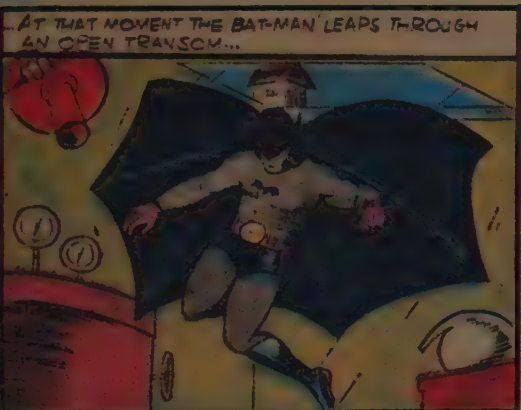
HELLO LAMBERT, THEY SAY YOU KILLED YOUR FATHER!

I DIDN'T DO IT! COMMISSIONER, BELIEVE ME, I DIDN'T DO IT!!!





MEANWHILE ROGERS WHO HAS LEARNED OF LAMBERT'S DEATH BY NEWS BROADCAST, HAS ALL READY GONE TO THE NEIGHBORING LABORATORY OF HIS ERTWHILE PARTNER, ALFRED STRYKER...

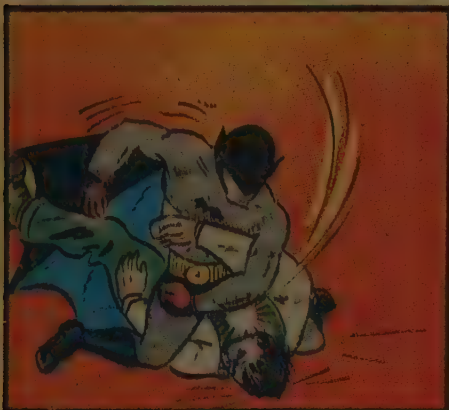
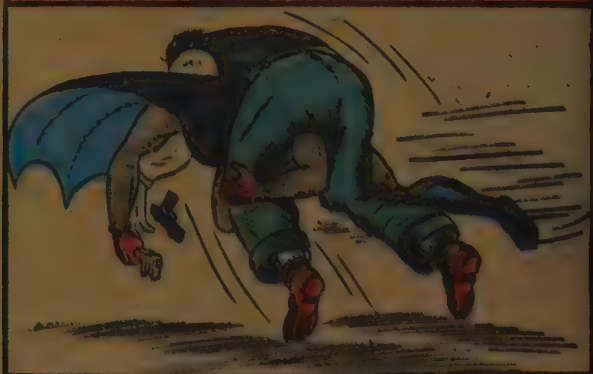


JENNINGS RETURNS AND IS STARTLED BY THE BATMAN... HE REACHES FOR HIS GUN...



WHAT THE...?

...THE BATMAN SURPRISES JENNINGS WITH A FLYING KICK!



MEANWHILE ALFRED STRYKER HAS HEARD THE CRASH OF THE GAS-CHAMBER ... AS HE ENTERS THE LABORATORY...



ROGERS? WHAT HAPPENED?

YOUR ASSISTANT, JENNINGS, TRIED TO KILL ME!

HOWEVER, STRYKER HAS NOT NOTICED THE BATMAN WHO HAS SECLUDED HIMSELF IN THE SHADOWS...



SO HE DIDN'T GET YOU AFTER ALL... WELL I'LL FINISH YOU AND THEN THROW YOUR BODY IN THE ACID TANK, BELOW.

YOU?

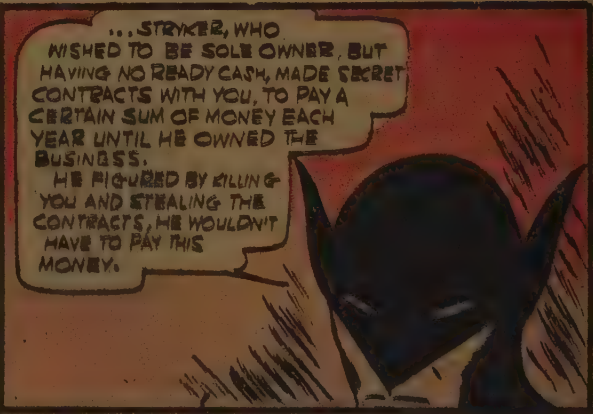


OH!!! MY HAND...

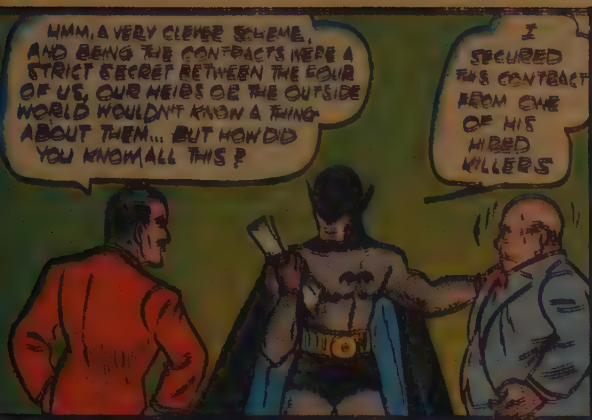


WHAT'S THE IDEA? WHY DID HE TRY TO KILL ME?

THIS RAT WAS BEHIND THE MURDERS! YOU SEE, I LEARNED THAT YOU, LAMBERT, CRANE AND STRYKER, WERE ONCE PARTNERS IN THE APEX CHEMICAL CORPORATION....

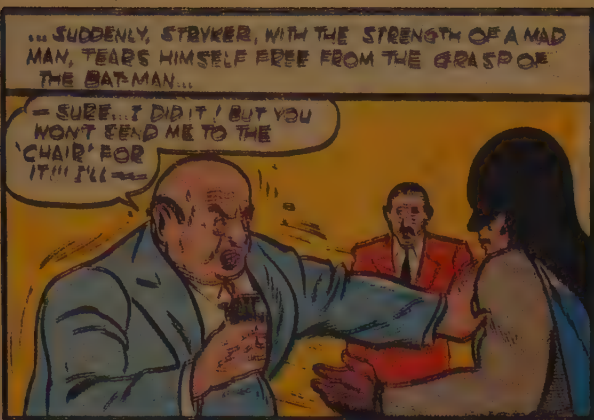


...STRYKER, WHO WISHED TO BE SOLE OWNER, BUT HAVING NO READY CASH, MADE SECRET CONTRACTS WITH YOU, TO PAY A CERTAIN SUM OF MONEY EACH YEAR UNTIL HE OWNED THE BUSINESS. HE FIGURED BY KILNG YOU AND STEALING THE CONTRACTS, HE WOULDN'T HAVE TO PAY THIS MONEY.



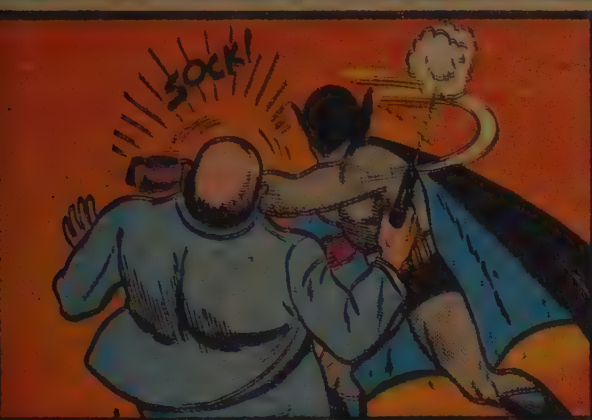
HMM, A VERY CLEVER SCHEME... AND BEING THE CONTRACTS WERE A STRICT SECRET BETWEEN THE FOUR OF US, OUR NEIBS OR THE OUTSIDE WORLD WOULDN'T KNOW A THING ABOUT THEM... BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW ALL THIS?

I SECURED THIS CONTRACT FROM ONE OF HIS HIBED KILLERS

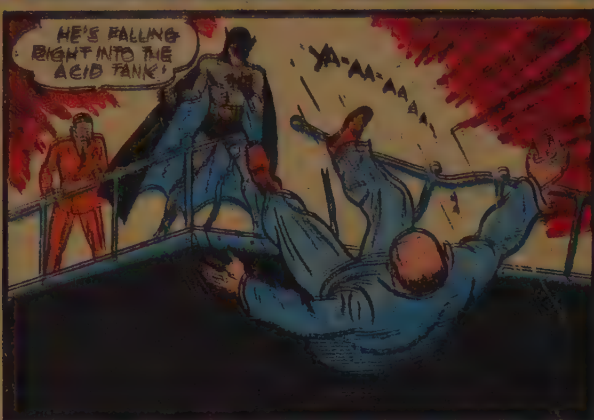


... SUDDENLY, STRYKER, WITH THE STRENGTH OF A MAD MAN, TEARS HIMSELF FREE FROM THE GRASP OF THE BAT-MAN...

- SURE... I DID IT! BUT YOU WON'T SEND ME TO THE 'CHAIR' FOR IT! I'LL



SOCK!



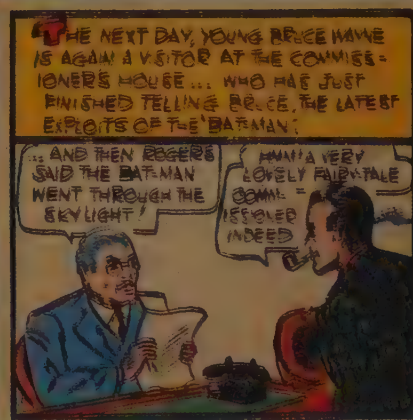
HE'S FALLING RIGHT INTO THE ACID TANK!



A HITTING ENDING FOR HIS KIND



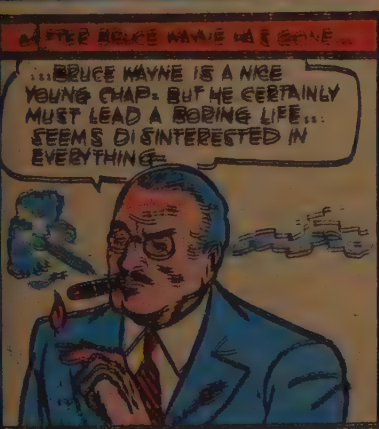
... HOW CAN I EVER THANK YOU... WHY... GONE!



THE NEXT DAY, YOUNG BRUCE WAYNE IS AGAIN A VISITOR AT THE COMMISSIONER'S HOUSE... WHO HAS JUST FINISHED TELLING BRUCE, THE LATEST EXPLOITS OF THE 'BAT-MAN'.

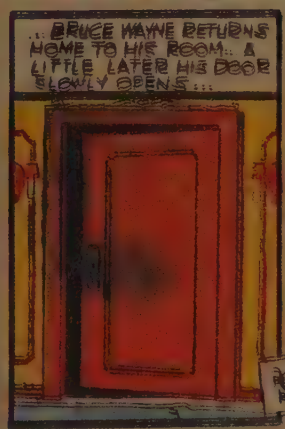
AND THEN ROGERS SAID THE BAT-MAN WENT THROUGH THE SKY LIGHT!

HMM! A VERY LOVELY FAIRY-TALE COMAL - ISSUED INDEED

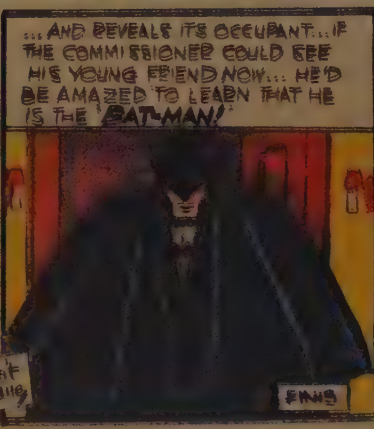


AFTER BRUCE WAYNE HAS GONE...

... BRUCE WAYNE IS A NICE YOUNG CHAP... BUT HE CERTAINLY MUST LEAD A BORING LIFE... SEEMS DISINTERESTED IN EVERYTHING



... BRUCE WAYNE RETURNS HOME TO HIS ROOM... A LITTLE LATER HIS DOOR SLOWLY OPENS...



... AND REVEALS ITS OCCUPANT... IF THE COMMISSIONER COULD SEE HIS YOUNG FRIEND NOW... HE'D BE AMAZED TO LEARN THAT HE IS THE 'BAT-MAN'!



WATCH FOR A NEW THRILLING BAT-MAN STORY...

NEXT MONTHS

About “Scribbly” and Sheldon Mayer

The following early sequence from Sheldon Mayer’s *Scribbly* is heartening evidence that the implicit pomposity of the costumed super-heroes received romping, low-comic comment almost from the moment of their arrival (and in a comic book from National, the home of the most popular super-heroes).

The *Scribbly* feature did not quite begin with this uninhibited super-hero buffoonery. In the first issue of *All-American Comics*, it introduced the adventures of a would-be boy cartoonist, and it developed and explored that premise for ten subsequent years, not only in *All-American* but in the young protagonist’s own magazine. Mayer was also editor of *All-American*, and *Scribbly* was a comic interlude among the more earnest doings of *The Green Lantern*, *The Atom*, and a *Rescue on Mars*. Predictably, perhaps, *Scribbly* sometimes confused his own life with the events in his cartoonist’s fantasies.

Mayer was born in 1917 in New York City, where he worked as an assistant (and occasional ghost) to several established cartoonists, beginning in 1932. By 1936, in addition to his other work, Mayer had begun to help with the editing of a new comic-book line for Dell, and thus he was a founding professional of the comic book. He held the editorship of *All-American* and its related titles for ten years, and he continued to write features of all kinds for National Comics after that. After *Scribbly*, however, Mayer’s most respected feature was another humor strip, *Sugar and Spike*, begun in 1956 and continued through 1971. It was his own reaction to the many derivative comic-book imitations of Hank Ketcham’s newspaper feature, *Dennis the Menace*, and his own determination not to do another one. In *Sugar and Spike*, Mayer came up with two spunky infants, merrily observing and involving themselves in the adult world, but communicating in a gibberish baby talk that only they (and the reader) understood.

As we join the *Scribbly* saga, the formidable Ma Hunkel has bought a grocery store, and some racketeers have made the mistake of trying to collect “protection money” from her. She has mussed them up and they have fled in their car—not knowing that Ma’s daughter Sisty and *Scribbly*’s brother Dinky have locked themselves in the rumble seat.

M.W.

SCRIBBLY

BY SHELDON MAYER

DINKY AND SISTY HAVE BEEN ACCIDENTALLY KIDNAPPED BY A GANG OF RACKETEERS AND ARE BEING HELD IN A SWANKY GAMBLING HOUSE -

WHAT KIND OF A POLICE CHIEF ARE YOU ANYHOW?

YOU KNOW WHO'S GOT THEM KIDS, TUBBS TORPONI'S GANG!

NOW WAIT A MINNIT, LADY...

WE'VE INVESTIGATED MISTER TORPONI, AND HE'S ABSOLUTELY INNOCENT...

THA BIG U GOT AN ALI BUT THAT WOULD STOP ME - IT WALK NADARS HIM ANYH...

NOW, LISSIN, LADY. MR. TORPONI'S A PRETTY POWERFUL MAN IN POLITICS.. YA CAN'T WALK IN AN' ARREST HIM JUST LIKE THAT! YA GOTTA HAVE SOME EVIDENCE!

YA MEAN YE'RE AFRAID OF TH' GUY, HAH? OKAY! THAT'S ALL I WANNA KNOW!

C'MON, GANG..LET'S GET OUTTA HERE! THESE DUMB COPS WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO HELP US FIND OUR WAY OUT OF A PAPER BAG!

AW, NOW, LISSIN, LADY. THAT AIN' SO...

SAY MA YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE INSULTED TH' CHIEF OF POLICE LIKE THAT... HE'S DOIN' TH' BEST HE CAN...

WELL, WHY DOESN'T HE TRY RAIDING ONE OF TUBBS TORPONI'S GAMBLING JERNTS? EVERY ONE IN TOWN KNOWS HE'S A RACKETEER EXCEPT TH' COPS!

I BETCHA IF TH' GREEN LANTERN WUS ON TH' JOB WE'D HAVE TH' KIDS BACK IN A MINUTE!

TH' GREEN LANTERN? WHO TH' LECK IS THAT?

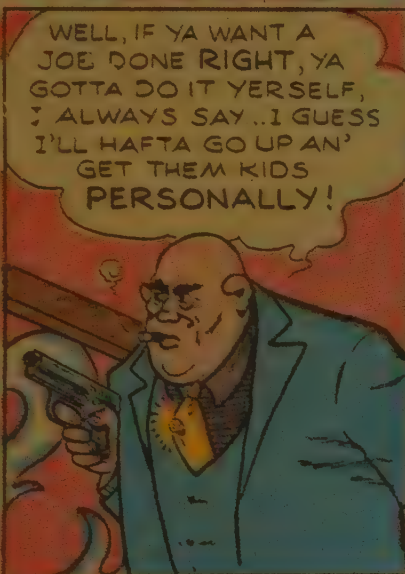
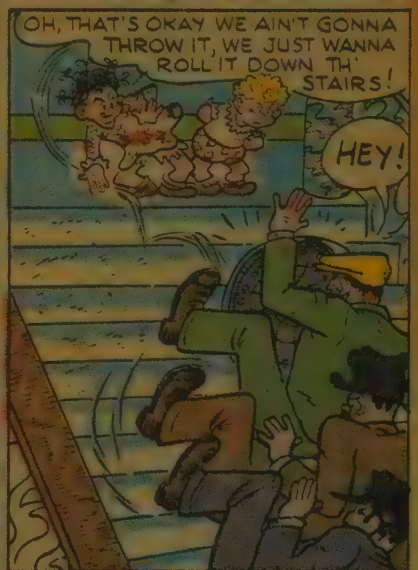
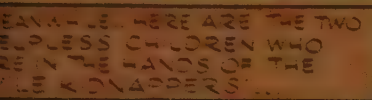
YEAH... AN'HOW!

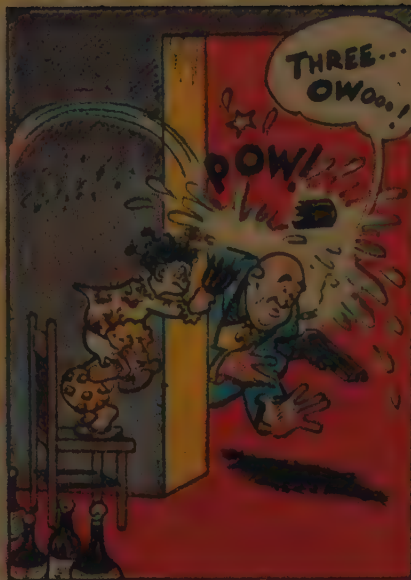
WELL, HE'S A GUY WHO JUST WAITS FER SOMETHIN' LAKE THIS TO HAPPEN, AN' THEN HE PUTS ON HIS MYSTERIOUS COSTUME SO NOBODY'D RECOGNIZE HIM, AN'...

AN ZINGO HE COMES TO TH' RESCUE

HAH, IZZ SO?

142-77A







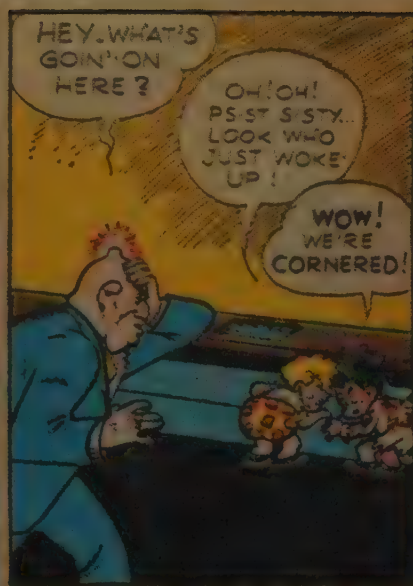
THEM KIDS IS
MAKIN' MONKEYS
OUT OF US! GET
TH' TOMMY-GUN!

RIGHT!



NOW LISSIN, YOU BRATS! WE GOT A
TOMMY-GUN OUT HERE!..COME OUT
PEACEFUL LIKE, OR WE'LL HAFTA
USE IT!

GO AHEAD AN' USE
IT.. TH' LAST GUY
THAT USED A TOMMY-
GUN ON US GOT IT
WRAPPED AROUND HIS
NECK!



HEY..WHAT'S
GOIN' ON
HERE?

OH! OH!
PSST S STY...
LOOK WHO
JUST WOKE
UP!

WOW!
WE'RE
CORNERED!



ALL RIGHT BOYS!
C'MON IN...
I GOT 'EM!



WAMMO!



C'MON..LET'S GO IN...
TH' BOSS'S GOT TH'
KIDS..IT'S OKAY NOW!



OH
MAMMA!

C'MON IN, BOYS... I'M JUST
IN TH' MOOD TO GIVE YA
SOME TROUBLE! YA WANNA
WRASSLE?

WHO
IS THIS
MYSTERIOUS
FIGURE
WHO HAS
COME TO
THE RESCUE
OF
SISTY AND
DINKY?
WHOEVER
HE IS, HE
CERTAINLY
PICKED
THE RIGHT
TIME TO
SHOW UP
DON'T
MISS THE
NEXT ISSUE
KIDS-
SM.



WHY BIT BRUDDERS
LEAVE HOME! SCRIBBL'.

SAY...WHO TOOK
MY GLASSES?
I CAN'T
SEE WHERE I'M
GOIN'!

TSK
TSK

SEND IN
YOUR IDEAS FOR
W.B.B. TO
SCRIBBL' BY
ALL AMERICAN COMICS
480 LEXINGTON AVE
N.Y.C.

THIS ONE GETS THE
DOLLAR PRIZE FOR
KOSKO YAMAMATO
142 CHERRY AVE.
LONG BEACH, CAL.

SCRIBBL

BY SHELDON MAYER.

DINKY AND SISKY HAVE BEEN KIDNAPPED BY A GANG OF RACKETEERS, AND WERE HAVING A RATHER ROUGH TIME OF IT WHEN A WEIRD FIGURE APPEARED FROM NO WHERE, AND CAME TO THEIR RESCUE!

WOW! LOOKA, THAT!

SOWIE! THIS IS MURDER, BUT I LOVE IT!

PULL IN YER HEADS, BOYS! YER GOIN' THRU A TUNNEL!

BONG BONG BONG

HEY, MISTER- WATCH OUT! THAT LUG, TORPONI IS GOIN' FER HIS GUN!

DON'T BOTHER THE MAN ABOUT LITTLE DETAILS! I'LL HANDLE THIS!

S'MATTER WITH YOU, TORPONI? YOU KEEP ON WAKIN' UP ALL TH' TIME! WHADDAYA GOT- INSOMNIAP?

NICE GOIN' KIDDO.. THAT FINISHES A GOOD DAY'S WORK!

HELLO, POLICE DEPARTMENT! SEND OVER A COUPLE OF THE BOYS TO 54 BIRCH DRIVE AN' HAVE 'EM PICK UP TH' MISHAP OF SISPY MUNKEL, AN' DINKY JIBBET! YOU HEARD ME!

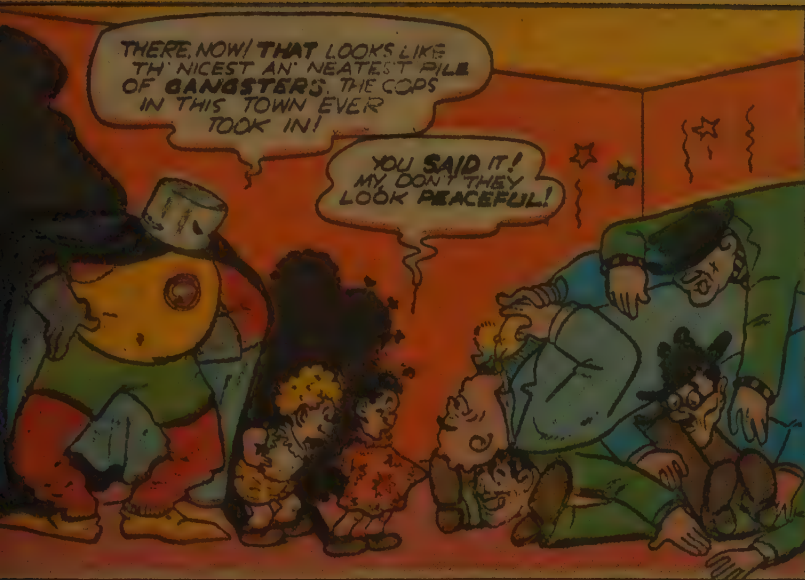
54 BIRCH DRIVE? WHY THAT'S TUBBS TORPONI'S PLACE! ARE THE KIDS SAFE AND SOUND?

SURE, BUT TORPONI AND HIS GANG ARE SLIGHTLY DAMAGED!

I'LL SEND A RADIO CAR RIGHT OVER... WHO IS THIS SPEAKING, PLEASE?

BUD- YOU'RE TALKIN' TO NONE OTHER THAN THE RED TORNADO IN PERSON!

NOT TOMATO... I SAID TORNADO! THE RED TORNADO! STOP YOUR WISE-CRACKIN' AND SEND OVER YOUR LITTLE BLUE COSSACKS, OR I'LL GO OVER THERE AN' WRECK YOUR JOINT TOO, YA HEAR ME?



THERE, NOW! THAT LOOKS LIKE TH' NICEST AN' NEATEST FILE OF GANGSTERS, THE COPS IN THIS TOWN EVER TOOK IN!

YOU SAID IT! MY DON'T THEY LOOK PEACEFUL!



LOOK, KIDS--I'VE GOTTA GO BEFORE TH' COPS COME! EACH OF YOU KIDS TAKE A BOTTLE, AN' IF ANY OF THOSE LUGS SHOWS SIGNS OF COMIN' TO.... SLUG 'IM!

YESSIR..WE'RE GOOD AT THAT!

AN' HOW!



BYE, MR. TORNADO!

THANKS FER HELPIN' US OUT!

THINK NOTHIN' OF IT! IT WAS A PLEASURE!



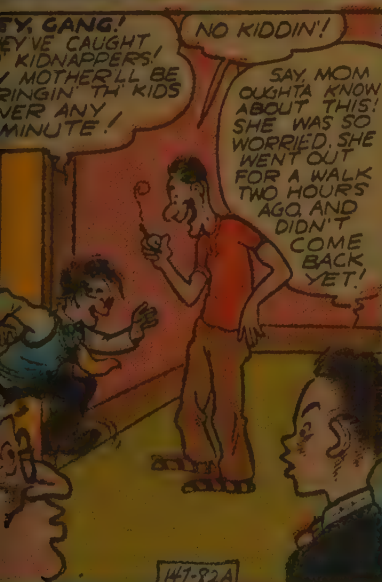
A LITTLE WHILE LATER AT THE JIBBET HOME--

HELLO? YES! THIS IS MRS. JIBBET.. WHAT? YOU'VE FOUND THE CHILDREN AND CAUGHT THE KIDNAPPERS? THAT'S WONDERFUL! I'M SO RELIEVED! THANK YOU... THANK YOU!



SCRIBBLY--THE POLICE ARE BRINGING DINKY AND SISTY HOME! THEY'VE CAUGHT THE KIDNAPPERS!

OH, BOY! I'M GOIN' OVER AN' TELL TH' HUNKELS! YOU BRING TH' KIDS OVER AS AS SOON AS THEY GET HERE !!!



TY, GANG! THEY'VE CAUGHT THE KIDNAPPERS! / MOTHER'LL BE BRINGIN' TH' KIDS OVER ANY MINUTE!

NO KIDDIN'!

SAY, MOM OUGHTA KNOW ABOUT THIS! SHE WAS SO WORRIED, SHE WENT OUT FOR A WALK TWO HOURS AGO, AND DIDN'T COME BACK YET!



HERE WE ARE!

WELL, WELL... HELLO, KIDS--YOU SURE HAVE BEEN THRU SOME EXCITEMENT! YOU'LL HAFTA TELL US ALL ABOUT IT!

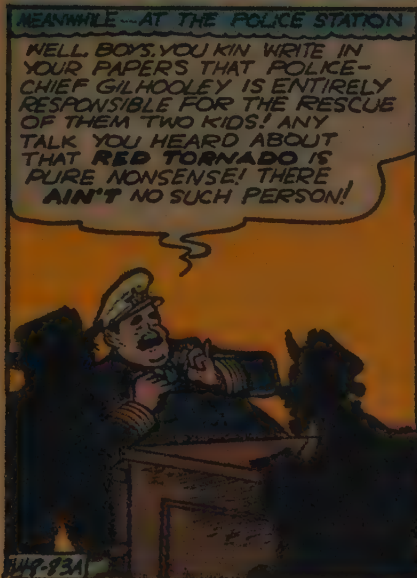
HYAR GANG!

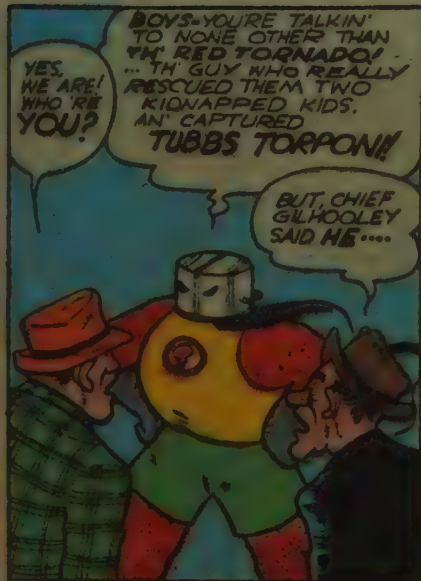


WELL, IN TH' FIRST PLACE TH' POLICE DIDN'T SAVE US! WE WAS SAVED BY A MYSTERY MAN!

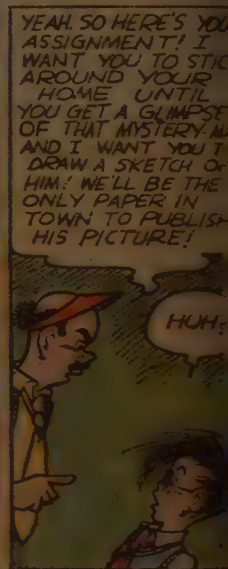
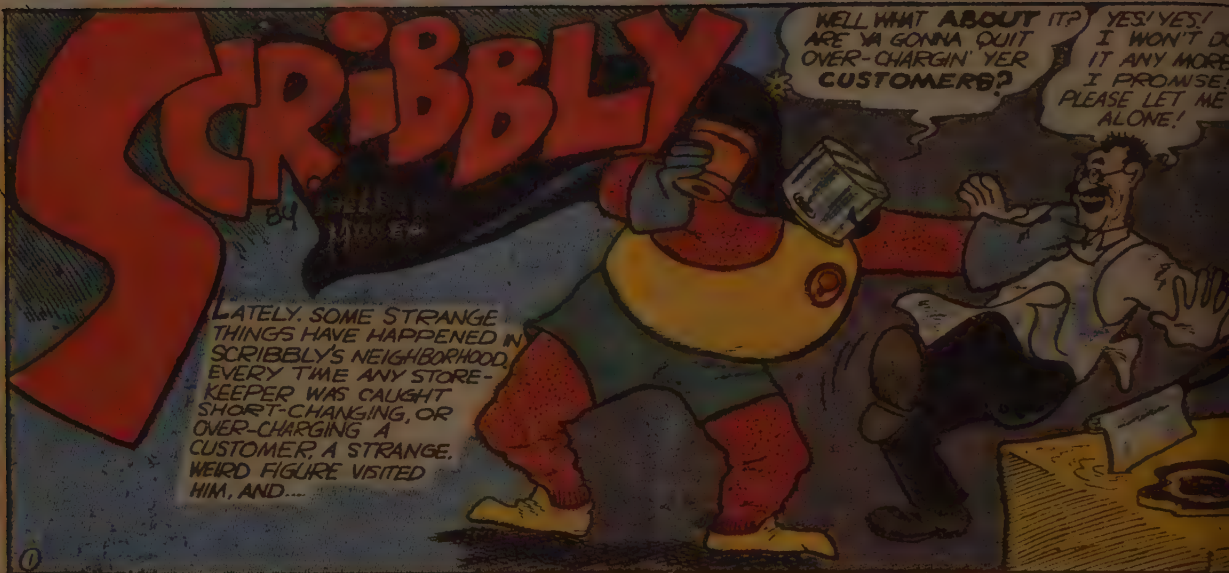
YEAH, AN' WAS HE STRONG! WOW! HIS NAME'S TH' RED TORNADO!

HA! HA! LISTEN TO EM! YOU KIDS HAVE BEEN READING TOO MANY COMIC BOOKS!

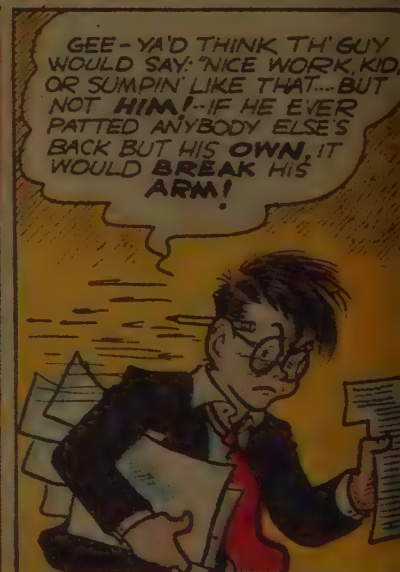
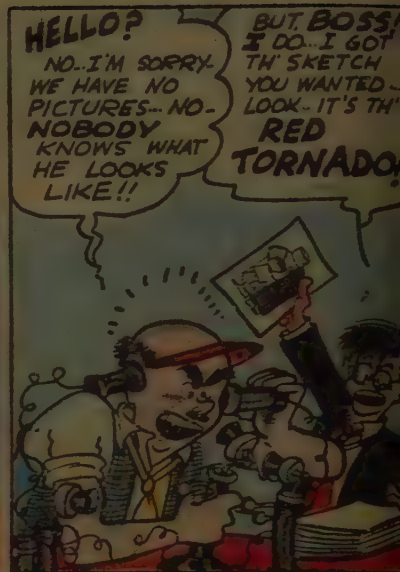
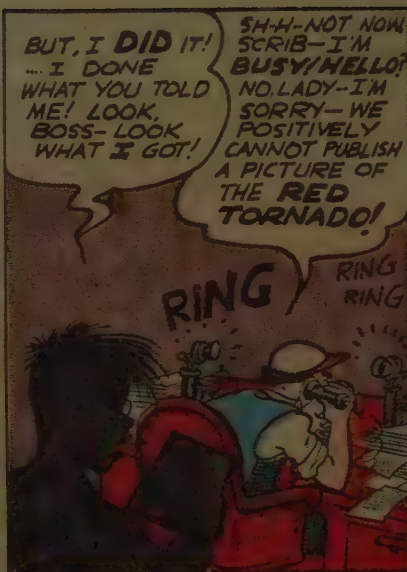
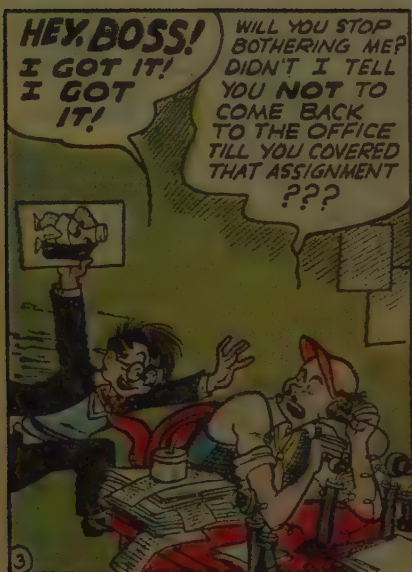


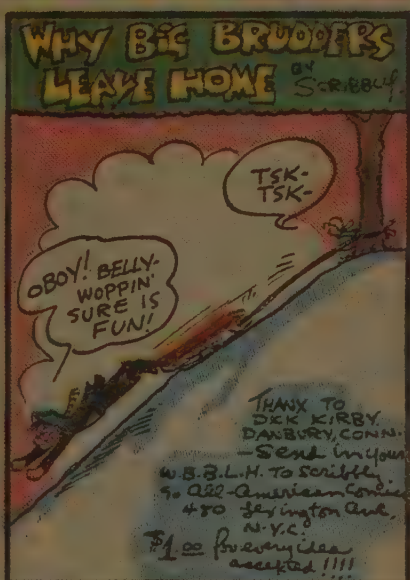
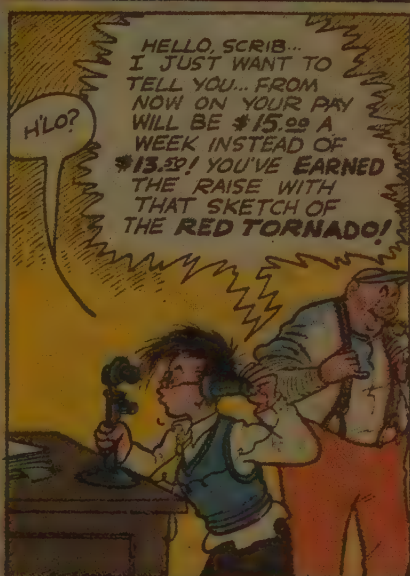
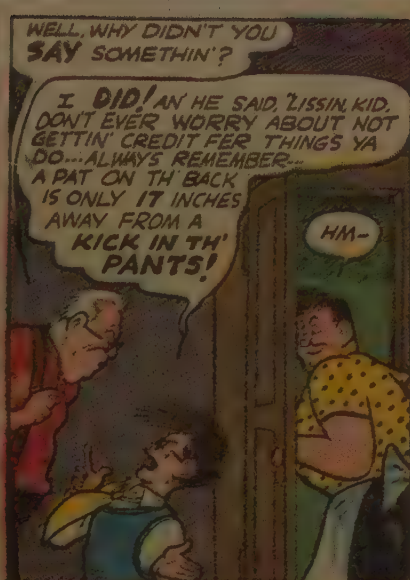


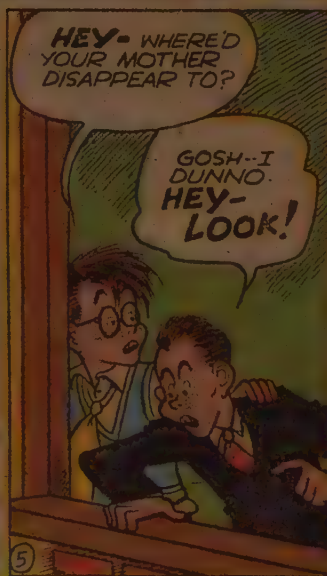
SEND IN YOUR
WILD L.H. IDEAS
TO SCRIBBLY
1441 AMERICAN COMICS
460 LEXINGTON AVE.
N.Y.C.
A BUCK GOES TO
ALEX DANDIS
JOHN MC DONOUGH
HUNTCOATERY, ALA.

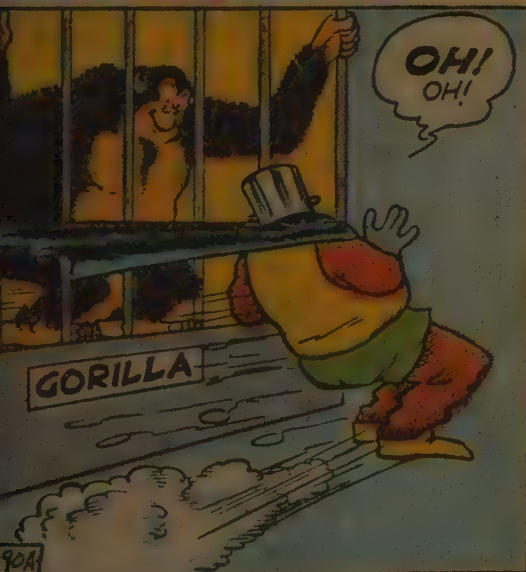
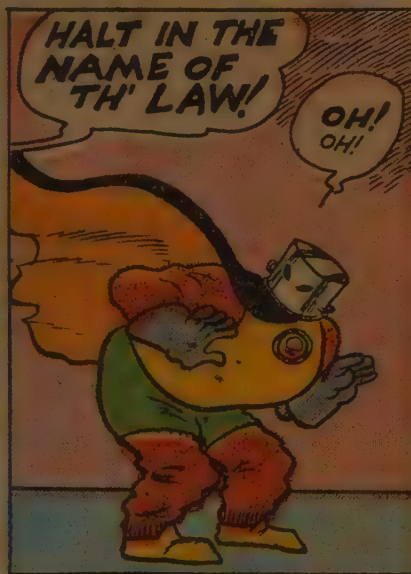


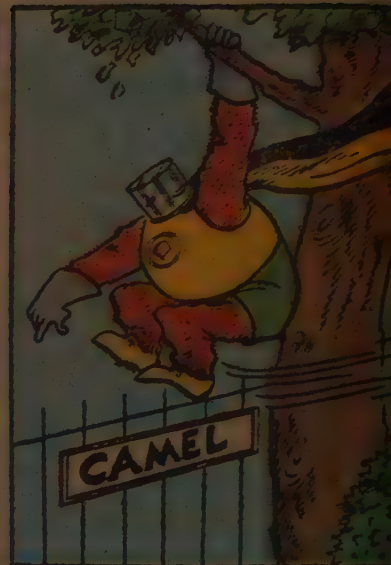












156-71A



SCRIBBLy

AND THE RED TORNADO!

BY SHELDON MAYER

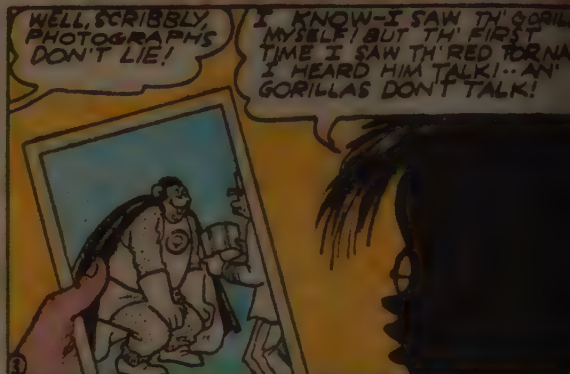


THE STRANGE FIGURE WHO APPEARS FROM NOWHERE ALWAYS IN TIME TO BEAT THE PANTS OFF OF WRONG-DOERS! **THE RED TORNADO!** WHO IS HE? WHAT IS HE? THE POLICE SEEM TO HAVE FOUND OUT! HE IS NEITHER MAN NOR MOUSE.....



HE'S A GORILLA!!

BUT BOSS, THAT AIN'T SO! I KNOW THEY CAUGHT A GORILLA DRESSED UP AS TH' RED TORNADO, BUT I STILL KNOW TH' RED TORNADO AIN'T A GORILLA!!



WELL, SCRIBBLy, PHOTOGRAPHS DON'T LIE!

I KNOW-I SAW TH' GORILLA MYSELF! BUT TH' FIRST TIME I SAW TH' RED TORNADO I HEARD HIM TALK!... AN' GORILLAS DON'T TALK!



YOU COULDN'T HAVE HEARD HIM TALK, SON! IT'S YOUR IMAGINATION! BESIDES... NOBODY'S SEEN OR HEARD FROM TH' RED TORNADO SINCE THAT GORILLA WAS CAUGHT, SO THAT SETTLES IT!

AW!



GEE WHIZ-THAT BOSS OF MINE SURE IS BULL-HEADED! HE INSISTS ON PUBLISHIN' TH' NEWS THAT TH' RED TORNADO WAS ONLY A GORILLA THAT SOMEBODY DRESSED UP FOR A GAG!

WELL-IT'S PROBABLY TRUE! SO WHAT'S TH' DIFFERENCE?



WHAT'S TH' DIFFERENCE? WHY, ALL TH' RACKETEERS THAT TH' RED TORNADO SCARED OUTTA TOWN WILL READ THAT, AND COME BACK, AN' START THEIR MONKEY BUSINESS AGAIN!

HM?

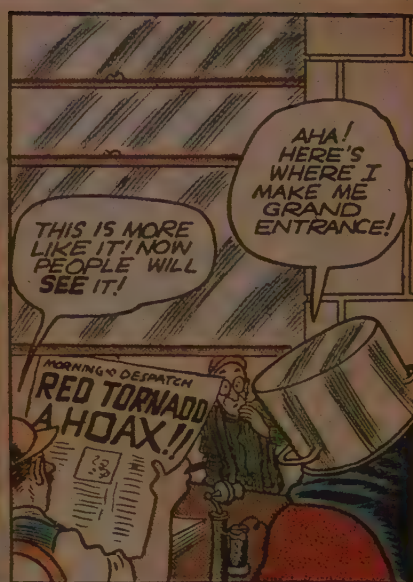


HM! THE KID'S RIGHT AT THAT! I GUESS MAYBE I BETTER GET BUSY WITH MORE RED TORNADO SHENANIGANS AN' CHANGE THAT EDITOR'S MIND!

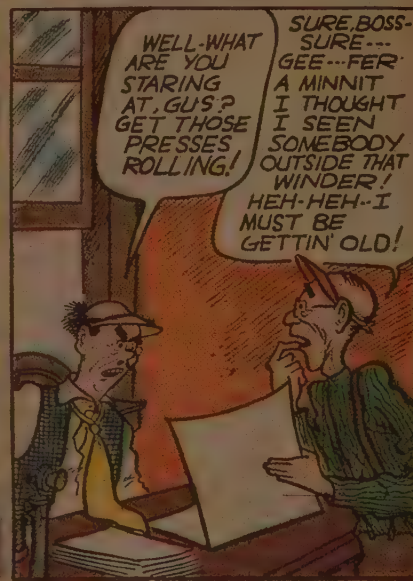
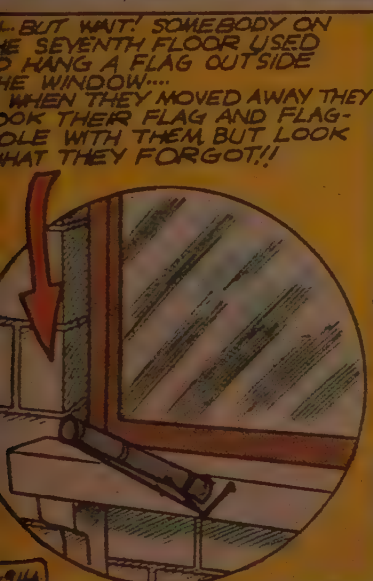
ANYWHERE AT THE OFFICE OF THE MORNING DESPATCH

HOPE! I WANT A BIGGER 'N THAT! GUSSEN, GUS-USE SIX INCH TYPE-I WANT T BIG.... RED TORNADO HOAX!!

OKAY! WE AINT USED THAT BIG TYPE SINCE LINDBERGH FLEW THE OCEAN, BUT OKAY... I'LL DUST IT OFF!



THIS IS MORE LIKE IT! NOW PEOPLE WILL SEE IT!



WELL-WHAT ARE YOU STARING AT, GUS? GET THOSE PRESSES ROLLING!

SURE, BOSS-SURE... GEE... FER A MINNIT I THOUGHT I SEEN SOMEBODY OUTSIDE THAT WINDER! HEH-HEH-I MUST BE GETTIN' OLD!

EXTRA! EXTRA!
RED TORNADO
A HOAX!
READ ALL
ABOUT IT!

HEY, SMOKEY.
DIDJA READ
THIS?
**NO MORE
RED
TORNADO!**

YEAH, I GUESS
DERE AINT
NOTHIN' TO
BE AFRAID OF
NOW... WE KIN
ROUND UP
TH' GANG, AN'
START COLLECTIN'
PROTECTION
MONEY FROM
TH' SUCKERS
AGAIN!

AND SO
BEFORE
THE EXTRA
EDITION
IS MORE
THAN AN HOUR
OLD, THE
RACKETEERS
WHOM THE
**RED
TORNADO**
HAD SCARED
INTO HIDING,
ARE OUT
OF THEIR
RAT-HOLES,
AND
BUSY
AT WORK!!

C'MON-
PAY UP OR
ELSE!!

D-DON'T
HIT ME-
I'LL PAY!

BUT I DON'T
WANT A
SLOT MACHINE
IN MY
STORE!

YOU'LL
TAKE IT, AN'
LIKE IT, BUD!

IN PRACTICALLY NO TIME
AT ALL, AN EXTRA EDITION
OF THE MORNING DESPATCH
IS SPREAD ALL OVER
TOWN ANNOUNCING THE
RED TORNADO HOAX!

BY EVENING
EVERYONE
IS
TALKING
ABOUT
THE SUDDEN
CRIME
WAVE---
WITHIN
TWELVE
HOURS, IT
HAS BEEN
FELT ALL
OVER TOWN!

DIDJA HEAR
WHAT THEY'RE
SAYIN' ABOUT
TH' **RED
TORNADO**,
DINKY?

YEAH-IT'S AWFUL,
AINT IT? I
JUS' CAN'T BELIEVE
TH' **RED
TORNADO**
WUS A FAKE!

WELL, WHETHER HE'S A
FAKE, OR NOT, THEM
PUNK GANGSTERS
ARE STILL MAKIN'
PESTS OF THEMSELVES!
SOMEBODY OUGHTTA
STOP 'EM!

YEAH-WHAT
THIS COUNTRY
NEEDS IS
MORE AN'
BETTER
**MYSTERY
MEN**

YOU GOT IT!
C'MON!

I GOT IT?
I GOT
WHAT?
HEY!!
WHO YA
PULLIN'?

YOU, YA DOPE!
YA GOT A
IDEAR!
STAND
STILL!

HEY!
WHADDAYA
DOIN'?

WHAT AM I DOIN' HE ASKS ME!
I'M CREATIN' TWO OF TH'
COUNTRY'S BEST
MYSTERY MEN!
**THE CYCLONE
KIDS!!**

?



5-185--
NO HUNDRED
DOLLARS! NOT
D FOR A
Y'S HAUL,
SMOKEY?

ALL RIGHT, YOU
FELLERS--HAND
OVER THAT
MONEY!--
IT'S GOIN'
RIGHT BACK
WHERE YOU
TOOK IT'
FROM!

NO-
HEY!
LOOK!



HEY!
THAT KID
SOUNDS
TOO WISE!
GET 'IM!

C'MERE
YOU!

COME
AN'
GET ME!



ZOWIE! LOOKIT
ALL THAT MONEY!
WE HIT TH' JACK-
POT, SISTY!

NICE
GOIN'
DINKY!



HEY!

HURRY UP, AN' RUN,
DINKY--IT LOOKS
LIKE YOU DIDN'T
HIT THOSE GUYS
HARD ENOUGH!



HEY!
GET 'EM!
DON'T LET
'EM GET
AWAY!
RUN!

WHADDAYA
THINK,
I'M DOIN'?
A WALTZ?
HEY!!



AHA-A!
NOW
WE
GOTCHA!
LET 'EM
HAVE IT,
SMOKEY...

ULP!



THIS STORY MIGHT HAVE
HAD A SAD ENDING, BUT
FOR A CIGAR CARELESSLY
DROPPED FROM A WINDOW....

DONG

IT'S TH'
RED
TORNADO!
WE'RE
SAVED!

WHICH LANDS ON OUR
FRIEND, THE RED TORNADO,
AND BURNS UP HER
LAST SHRED OF SUPPORT--
HER PANTS!....

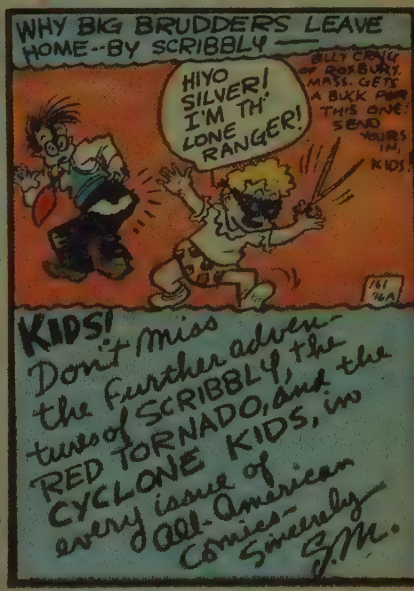


NEXT MORNING--

MORNING

RED TORNADO
NOT A HOAX
AFTER ALL!

TODAY THE RED TORNADO
DO CAPTURED TWO OF
THE CITY'S TOUGHEST
RACKETEERS! IT WAS
SAID THAT THE NEWS
MAN WAS ACCOMPANIED
BY A...



WHY BIG BRUDDERS LEAVE
HOME--BY SCRIBBLER--

HIYO
SILVER!
I'M TH'
LONE
RANGER!

BILLY CRANK
OF ROXBURY,
MASS. GETS
A BUCK FOR
THIS ONE.
SEND
YOUR
THANKS
TO THE
KIDS!

KIDS!
Don't miss
the further adven-
tures of SCRIBBLER, the
RED TORNADO, and the
CYCLONE KIDS, in
every issue of
Good American
Comics--
Sincerely
J.M.

About “Plastic Man” and Jack Cole

Plastic Man was the creation of Jack Cole, a man whose life came close to true tragedy.

Cole was born in 1918 in New Castle, Pennsylvania. He once took a correspondence course in cartooning, but he was a man with the natural talents of a cartoonist. By 1937, he was already at work in comic books, turning out gag features built around more or less traditional “big foot” characters. Within two years, however, he was meeting the demand for super-heroes and adventure by editing, drawing, and writing several features, including the durable *Daredevil*. Cole also worked as an assistant to Will Eisner, particularly on the daily newspaper version of *The Spirit* that ran in the early 1940s.

Meanwhile, the magazine *Police Comics* had appeared in 1941, and in it Cole’s inventive *Plastic Man*, a light-hearted feature with a crime-fighting hero who did have a super-power, but a super-power with decidedly comic implications. Clearly, *Plastic Man*, featuring what Joe Brancatelli has called “breathless story telling and a refined, semi-slapstick,” combined elements of Cole’s “realistic” present and his “big foot” past in a single feature. The balance was not perfectly achieved, however, until the appearance of *Police Comics* No. 13 and the arrival of a maladroit sidekick in Woozy Winks, an out-and-out traditional clown, right down to his costume.

By 1943, Plastic Man (“Plas” to his admirers) had his own comic book, and the feature thrived under Cole’s guidance through 1950. Others took over the comic book, and it lasted until 1956. (And there have been revivals since, including an animated TV version in 1979.)

Cole meanwhile had begun a career as a panel cartoonist in such publications as *Collier’s* and the *Saturday Evening Post*. By 1955, he had begun a regular collection of *Females by Cole* in *Playboy*. In 1958, a humorous Cole “family strip” called *Betsy and Me* began daily newspaper syndication by the Chicago *Sun-Times*. But on August 15th of that year, Jack Cole took his own life. He left no note and gave no explanation.

We have chosen Plastic Man’s first appearance for inclusion here, and the adventure of the arrival of Woozy Winks.

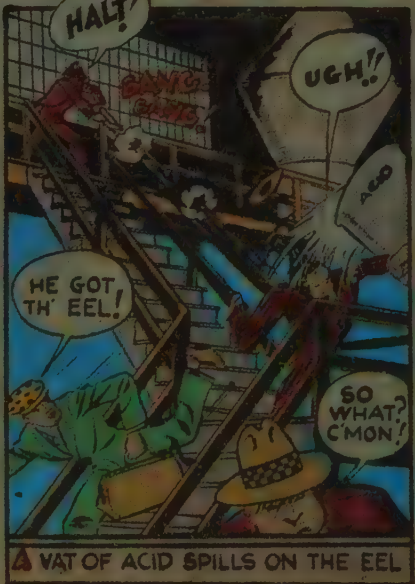
M.W.

PLASTIC MAN



FROM TIME TO TIME THE COMIC WORLD WELCOMES A NEW SENSATION! SUCH IS **PLASTIC MAN!!** THE MOST FANTASTIC MAN ALIVE! VERMIN OF THE UNDER-WORLD SHUDDER AT THE MENTION OF HIS NAME! AND YET HE WAS ONCE ONE OF THEM!!

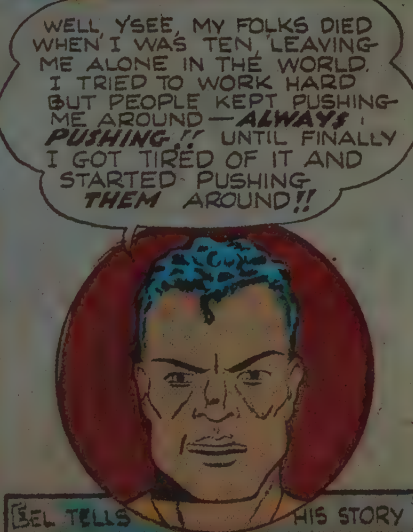
NOW, READ OF HOW THIS INCREDIBLE CHARACTER CAME TO BE.

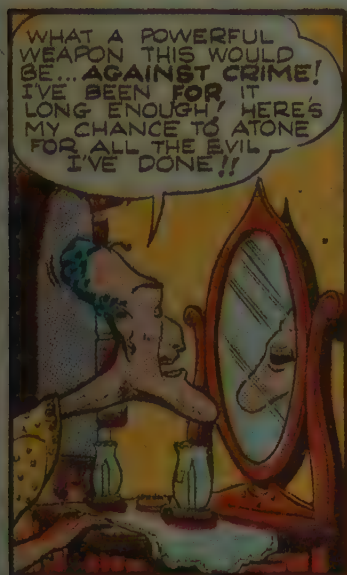


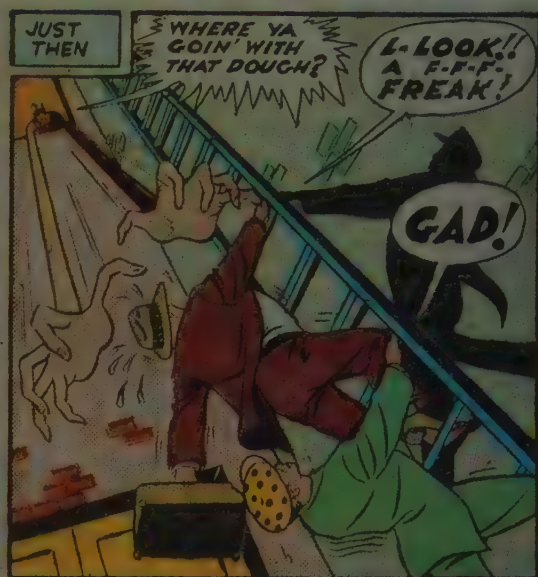
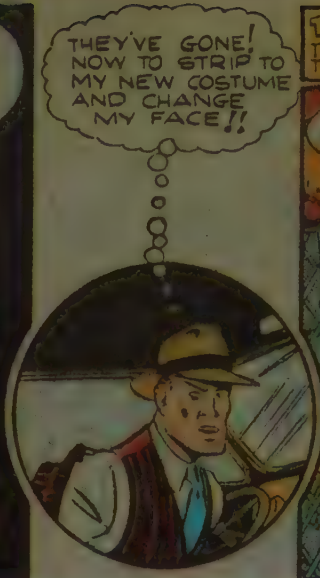
A VAT OF ACID SPILLS ON THE EEL



SOME TIME LATER HE AWAKENS:

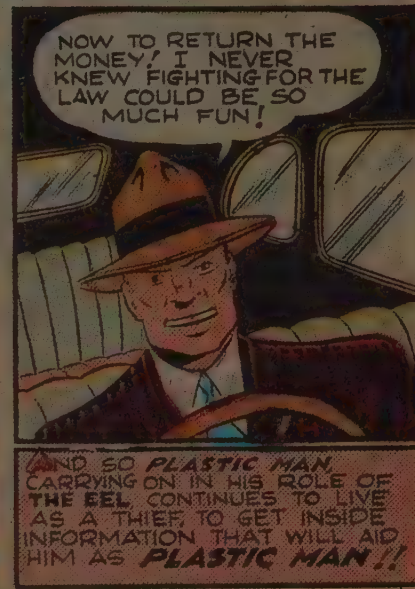
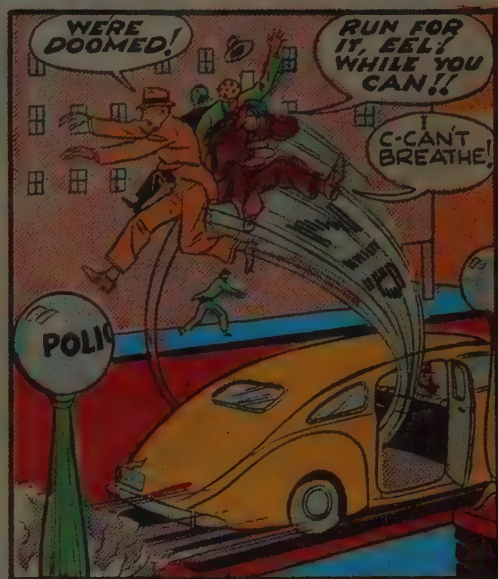








...UT PLASTIC MAN DOUBLES UP
BOUNCING LIKE A RUBBER BALL.



STOP!

LOOK!

AND

READ

**PRESENTING
THE MAN WHO CAN'T
BE HARMED**

**FOR
NEW
READERS
ONLY..**

IN ORDER TO GET INFORMATION ON CROOKS, PLASTIC MAN POSES AS GANGSTER, EEL O'BRIAN, AND MINGLES WITH THE UNDERWORLD.. THEN THE INDIAN RUBBER MAN GOES INTO ACTION, BRINGING HIS PREY TO JUSTICE, HIS ONLY WEAPON BEING HIS ABILITY TO BEND, TWIST, OR MOLD INTO ANY SHAPE !!

by
**JACK
COLE**

OUR STORY
BEGINNS AS
SIMPLY AS
THIS...



I HEREBY BE-
STOW UPON YOU THE
PROTECTION OF
NATURE!! FROM
THIS DAY FORTH
NO HARM YOU'!!
SHADDROE!!



MMM.. HE'S
GONE!.. A
CRACK-POT,
NO DOUBT!
CAN'T BE HURT,
EH? WE'LL SEE
ABOUT THAT!



BY GEORGE, IT'S TRUE
..I DON'T FEEL A THING!
BUT THEN I NEVER
COULD FEEL ANY PAIN
IN MY HEAD!.. BETTER
PICK A MORE VULNER-
ABLE SPOT FOR THE
ACID TEST..



WITH LABOROUS EFFORT,
DOOZY WINKS CLIMBS
NEARBY CLIFF AND
JUMPS..



WHY, WITH THIS
ABILITY I CAN
MAKE A FORTUNE!
BY EITHER GOOD
OR BAD METHODS!
HMMM.. WHICH
SHALL IT BE?
GOOD OR BAD?
I'VE GOT IT..



HEADS I USE
MY POWERS
FOR GOOD..
TAILS FOR
EVIL !!



SOME TIME LATER, THE POLICE RECEIVE A CALL..



BUT WHEN PLASTIC MAN REACHES HOMER'S STUDIO, HE FINDS..



THAT'S QUEER.. THE WORD "HELP" SPELLED OUT IN CLAY ON THIS BOOK..



BUT WHY ON A BOOK?? AND WHY, "HANS AND GRETHEL"?? ..UNLESS..



HANS AND GRETHEL DROPPED BREAD CRUMBS TO MARK A TRAIL.. PERHAP HOMER TWITCHEL DROPPED CLAY!



OUT INTO THE STREET HE FOLLOWS THE TRAIL..



MEANWHILE NOT FAR AWAY..



WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO MY NIGHT ARM??

MAKING SURE YOU'LL NEVER DO ANY SCULPTING AGAIN!



BUT SUDDENLY...



WHOA THERE !!

MY WORD!!

C'MERE YOU !!! I WANT TO TALK WITH... ???



GEE, I FAILED! WHAT'LL THE BOSS THINK?

OH, WELL, WE CAN TRY AGAIN TOMORROW! DUM DE DUM!

NOW IT'S GIANT HAIL STONES!!

HELP!!



UNDER HERE, HOMER!

MY HEAD !!



THERE'S SOMETHING MIGHTY QUEER ABOUT THIS STORM... DID YOU NOTICE HOW FATTY WALKED RIGHT THROUGH IT AND WASN'T HIT ONCE ??!

IT'S JUST AS THOUGH HE WAS PROTECTED BY NATURE!



AFTER THE STORM SUBSIDES..

WELL, HOMER'S ONE INTO HIDING. NOW MAYBE EEL O'BRIAN CAN FIND WHAT PLASTIC HE COULDN'T BOUT FATSO!



LATER, AT A CAFE, EEL FINDS HIS QUARRY.

PARDON, CHUM, NAME'S O'BRIAN... I'VE HEARD OF YOU, AN'...

SORRY, BUT I'VE NEVER HEARD OF YOU!



WHAT! NEVER HEARD OF EEL O'BRIAN, TOUGHEST THUG IN TOWN? SAY, YOU AND I COULD MAKE A MINT T'GETHER !!

GO WAY SMALL FRY!



SO YOU WANT PROOF OF MY ABILITY, EH?..OKAY, SMART STUFF. I'LL MEET YOU HERE IN TWO WEEKS. AND KEEP AN EYE ON THE PAPERS, CAUSE YOU'LL BE READING A LOT ABOUT ME!



NOW FOR
A FEW
JOBS TO
CONVINCE
THE
SKEPTIC..



THUS BEGINS A SERIES OF
DARING ROBBERIES, THE LIKE
OF WHICH IS SELDOM SEEN..

IN BANKS

IF THEY
ONLY KNEW
I'M SHOOTING
BLANKS!



IN JEWELRY
STORES..

IT'S EEL
O'BRIAN!

STOP
THIEF!

THE THINGS
HAVE TO GO
THROUGH JU
TO GET IN T
GOOD GRAC
OF A CROOK



NO ONE IS SAFE
FROM HIS GRASP

WUXTRY!!
ANOTHER
BANK LOOTED
BY THE EEL!
WUXTRY!!

HMM..
THE LAD'S
REALLY
GOOD!
HMMM..



HOT-TEMPERED POLICE CAPTAIN
MURPHEY IS IN A DITHER..

FINE FORCE
YOU ARE.. LETTING
THE EEL MAKE
GOOPS OF YOU!!

WE
KNOW!

DON'T
RUB IT
IN CHIEF!



WHEN TWO WEEKS ARE
UP EEL MEETS WOOL

..AND AFTER DUE
CONSIDERATION,
FRIEND, I'VE
DECIDED TO
TAKE YOU ON
AS MY
JUNIOR
PARTNER

SWEET
WHE
DO W
STAR



TONIGHT! HOW
ARE YOU ON
SWIPING MARBLE
STATUETTES??

JUST TRY
ME, PAL!



WE'RE GOING TO
STEAL EVERY ONE
OF HOMER TWITCHEL'S
BUSTS FROM THE
CITY MUSEUM!

BUT WHY?

IT'S A
SECRET, CHUM!
MEET ME
HERE AT
EIGHT!



AS PLASTIC MAN,
HE GOES TO THE
POLICE..

AND WHERE WERE
YOU WHEN EEL O'BRIAN
WAS TEARING THE
CITY APART, MISTER
PLASTIC MAN?



BANK YOUR FIRES,
MURPHEY.. I'VE JUST
FOUND OUT THAT
EEL AND THE THUG
WHO STOLE HOMER
TWITCHEL'S
SCULPTURE PIECE
ARE PULLING A
REPEAT TONIGHT.



THE CITY MUSEUM, EH? THIS TIP HAD BETTER BE GOOD!! NOW LISTEN, HERE'S WHAT WE'LL DO...



THAT NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM



HERE WE ARE!

DON'T TELL ME WE'RE GOIN' IN THE

WHY NOT?



ANYONE HOME?

NOPE! COAST IS CLEAR !!

MINUTES LATER..



THESE'LL BE ENOUGH FOR THIS TRIP!!

I HOPE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING



ALL RIGHT YOU TWO.. THE JIG IS UP!

COPS!!

JUST IGNORE THEM!



WHAT TH- ?? FIRE!

WHERE'D IT COME FROM?

WELL, I'LL BE... !!



CAN YOU HEAR THAT? A WALL OF FIRE !! BUT HOW.. ??

I DON'T BELIEVE IT !!

TUM DE DUM



WOOLY, YOU'RE A WIZARD!! HOW DID YOU DO IT??

IT'S A GIFT!! NOW DRIVE OUT TO HARI KARI CLIFF!



THAT'S IT. DUMP THE STUFF!!

SAY, I DON'T GET IT? WHERE'S THE PAYOFF IN YOUR SCREWY GAME, WINKS?

WHAT DO YOU CARE AS LONG AS YOU GET A THOUSAND FOR THE JOB? I'LL PAY YOU AS SOON AS THE BOSS PAYS ME!

SEE YOU TOMORROW!!



WHAT A CAGY CUSS! HAVEN'T SQUEEZED A BIT OF INFORMATION OUT OF HIM! BETTER TRAIL HIM AND SEE WHERE HE GOES!



HE'S HEADING FOR THE MIRE MANSION



WELL? EVENING, MIRE! JUST DROPPED BY TO TELL YOU I DESTROYED THREE MORE TWITCHEL BUSTS TONIGHT!



BLUNDERING IDIOT! I HEARD ALL ABOUT IT OVER THE RADIO! THOSE BUSTS WERE ONLY PLASTER!! THE COPS HID THE REAL ONES! HOW DO YOU EXPECT ME TO INCREASE THE VALUE OF MY OWN TWITCHELS IF THE REST AREN'T DESTROYED ?!?!?



I'VE BEEN TRICKED!

DEAR ME! THIS IS BAD! IT MUST HAVE BEEN EEL O'BRIAN!

GET OUT!!



BUT THE CHAIR SUDDENLY COMES TO LIFE



GOT YOU THIS TIME!

PLASTIC MAN!!

BLACKIE! COME OUT!



IMMEDIATELY A DOOR OPENS

OH, OH! WE'LL HAVE TO POSTPONE OUR SCRAP, WINKS!!

AFTER HIM



RRRRRR



LET'S SEE YOU GET OUT OF THIS, MR. PLASTIC MAN!

OH, VERY WELL!



THERE.. HOW'S THAT FOR A SWIPE ON YOUR PUSS?

WHY.. YOU'RE ME !!

?



GO BACK TO YOUR HOLE, BLACKIE!

DON'T LISTEN TO HIM! TEAR THE IMPOSTER TO BITS !!!

?



TA BOY.. BACK TO YOUR LAIR!

HA! HA! HA!

NO! NO!! I'M YOUR MASTER!! OBEY ME!



YOU SCOUNDREL! I'LL KILL — !!

NO TIME FOR YOU NOW, MIRE!

BIFF!



C'MERE, FATTY.. UGH !!

SOMEONE CALLING ME ?



HERE'D AT TREE COME FROM ?

AN ACORN NO DOUBT! WELL, GUESS I'LL BE ROLLING!



PLASTIC MAN CONTINUES HIS ATTEMPT TO GET WOOLZY WINKS

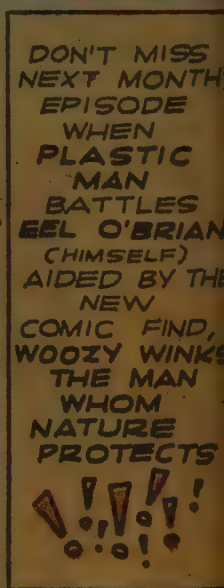
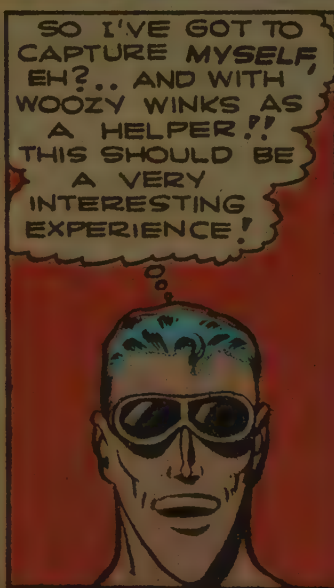
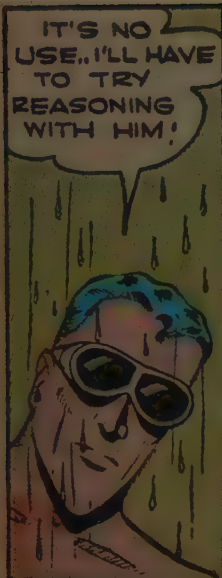
♪ DUM ♪ DE DUM

EARTHQUAKE! WHAT NEXT ?



NOW RAIN!

MONOTONOUS, ISN'T IT ?



About "Captain Marvel" and C. C. Beck

Captain Marvel was the result, first, of an executive decision, and, following on that, of the fortuitous coming together of exceptional talents.

The decision came when Fawcett Publications declared itself a relatively late entrant into the highly profitable comic-book field. C. C. Beck, a cartoonist who had contributed gag panels to Fawcett's humor magazines, was brought together with writer Bill Parker. They came up with an orphaned big-city newsboy who could transform himself into a super-being. Billy Batson was lured into an abandoned subway station by a mysterious figure, led past grotesque depictions of the Seven Deadly Enemies of Man (actually the Seven Deadly Sins of medieval Catholic theology), and taken to an ancient, enthroned magician who was somehow Egyptian. This sage gave Billy a magic word, "Shazam," based on the initials of a polyglot of Biblical characters, Greek and Roman deities, and mythic heroes. Uttering this word, Billy would invoke a lightning bolt and convert himself into Captain Marvel. (And, incidentally, as if to domesticate the whole picture, the Captain was physically modeled on the actor Fred MacMurray, and the Captain's archenemy, Dr. Sivana, on C. C. Beck's neighborhood pharmacist.)

Beck's graphic renderings were simple, uncluttered, cartoon-oriented, and appropriately humorous. And Captain Marvel was a huge success. He was soon appearing in a whole group of magazines and had spun off a Captain Marvel, Jr., a Mary Marvel—even a Marvel Bunny.

Beck needed a whole roomful of assistants to help out. The foremost of these was Pete Costanza, who worked directly with Beck and also supervised the other helpers. Meanwhile, in 1941, the feature had found its perfect author in the fanciful Otto Binder. Binder understood that the *Captain Marvel* stories were best treated as light-hearted children's fare, and knew that strong rationalizations and pseudo-scientific explanations of its magic events and magic powers were not only unnecessary, they might simply get in the way of the psychological truths the magic imparted. Binder's introduction of Tawky Tawny, a "civilized," talking jungle tiger, was indicative: Billy befriends him and he becomes a sports-jacketed American suburbanite, confirming for the feature's readers that the savage impulse can be domesticated—with a sense of humor.

Both Charles Clarence Beck and Otto Binder came from the American Midwest. Beck was born in Zumbrota, Minnesota, in 1910. He studied at the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts and the University of Minnesota, and was a humor illustrator for Fawcett by 1933. Binder was born a year after Beck in

Bessemer, Michigan, and had been writing for pulp and short-story magazines and, beginning in 1939, for comic books.

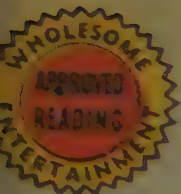
The various Marvel-family comic books continued with high success until 1953. National Comics had brought legal action against Fawcett, claiming that the Captain infringed upon its Superman copyrights, and Fawcett finally decided that fighting the suit wasn't worth the money and the effort. (Insiders insist, incidentally, that there were other, less successful super-heroes that were closer to Superman in conception than was Captain Marvel.)

Our selection, *Captain Marvel Battles the Plot Against the Universe*, comes from 1949 and the one-hundredth issue of *Captain Marvel Adventures*. Its title is perhaps the only awkward moment in this little masterpiece of breakneck whimsy, as Binder's plotting is rendered and embellished in Beck's and Costanza's drawings. The elements are, as usual, wonderfully preposterous: pseudo-science, traditional myth, space travel, time travel—all are invoked with no inhibition, and the feature's pseudo-heaven (the Rock of Eternity) is prominently featured. If a new magic metal is needed to get the story started, let's have one: shazanium. If another is needed to keep it going, let's have another: sivanium. If a third is required to resolve things, so be it: marvelium. Most indicative of the tone of it all, the artists give us Captain Marvel's torture at the hands of Sivana in the "splash panel" to Part 3—he gets some ink on his red suit from a squirt gun, some itching powder, and (torture of tortures!) a swift kick in the behind.

The story is sustained by an innocent, unapologetic fascination with its own willful fancy, and by our delight in following that fancy—those things, plus an absolute refusal to take itself seriously. And to bring it all off involves a balance of attitudes, of story elements, of pictures—and balances within balances—that are not nearly so easy to achieve and to sustain as they seem.

Otto Binder died in 1974, but C. C. Beck has remained active, and he illustrated the first few issues of a revived *Captain Marvel* comic book (titled *Shazam!*) in the 1970s. Ironically, the comic book was published by National, the company that had put the Captain out of business twenty years earlier.

M.W.



CAPTAIN MARVEL ADVENTURES

Executive Editor
WILL LIEBERSON

Editor
WENDELL CROWLEY

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Captain MARVEL

BATTLES THE PLOT AGAINST THE UNIVERSE



WHENEVER BILLY BATSON, FAMOUS BOY NEWSCASTER, SAYS THE WORD 'SHAZAM' HE IS MIRACULOUSLY CHANGED INTO POWERFUL CAPTAIN MARVEL, THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL, WHO COMBINES IN HIS MAGNIFICENT PERSON THE POWERS OF SIX OF THE MIGHTIEST HEROES OF ALL TIME!

SOLOMON... WISDOM
HERCULES... STRENGTH
ATHLAS... POWER
ZEUS... COURAGE
ACHILLES... SPEED
MERCURY... SPEED



THE UNIVERSE



PART 1 DR. SIVANA STRIKES AT SHAZAM

NO GREATER EVIL GENIUS THAN DR. SIVANA, THE WORLD'S WICKEDEST SCIENTIST, HAS EVER EXISTED ON THIS EARTH OF OURS! HIS SINISTER AMBITION IS TO RULE NOT ONLY EARTH, BUT THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE! THE VERY EXISTENCE OF CAPTAIN MARVEL HIMSELF IS THREATENED AS THE WILY SCIENTIST SETS IN MOTION HIS LATEST AUDACIOUS PLOT TO GIVE HIM POWER OVER ALL THE UNIVERSE! READ ON, FOR 100 THRILLS, CHILLS, AND EXCITING EPISODES COMPLETE IN THIS 100th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE!

LET US PEER INTO THE SECRET LABORATORY OF DR. SIVANA, THE GREATEST ENEMY OF CIVILIZATION EVER KNOWN, AS HE REPEATS A DREAD VOW!

I VOW TO WEAR THAT CROWN YET!
SOMEHOW---SOMEDAY--- I'LL
BECOME **RIGHTFUL RULER**
OF THE **UNIVERSE!**
HEH, HEH, HEH!

THE WORLD'S
MADDEST
SCIENTIST
HAS NEVER
GIVEN UP THIS
ALL-CONSUMING
AMBITION, BUT
THERE HAS
ALWAYS BEEN
ONE GREAT
STUMBLING
BLOCK!

CURSES! HOW CAN I
WIN OUT WITH THAT BIG
RED LOU, **CAPTAIN**
MARVEL, AGAINST ME?
HE SMASHES MY BEST
PLOTS EVERY TIME!
BAH!

AND I CAN'T EVEN GET **BILLY BATSON**, THE
BOY THAT **CAPTAIN MARVEL** CHANGES BACK
INTO! EVERY TIME I GO FOR BILLY,
HE SOMEHOW CHANGES TO
CAPTAIN MARVEL IN TIME!

BAH!

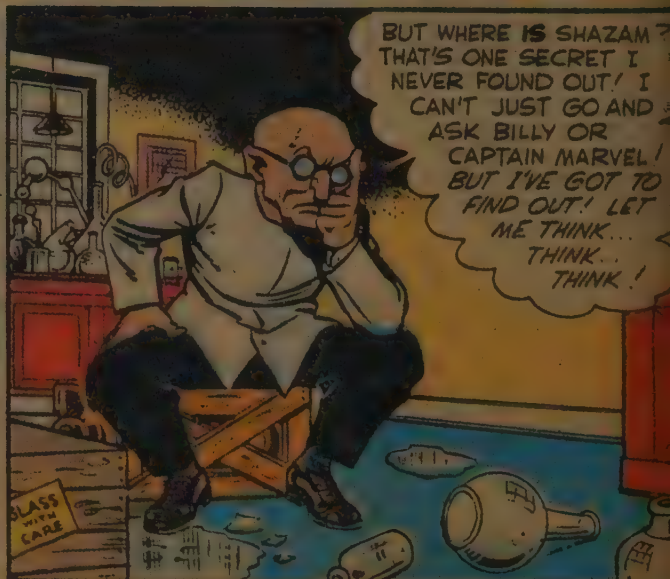
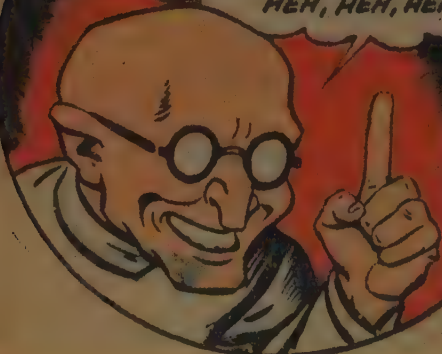
AND **CAPTAIN MARVEL** CAN'T BE
DEFEATED --- NOT WITH
THOSE POWERS FROM SIX
ELDER HEROES, GRANTED
TO HIM BY **SHAZAM**, THE
ANCIENT EGYPTIAN
WIZARD!
BAH, BAH!

SOLOMON-WISDOM
HERCULES-STRENGTH
ATLAS-STAMINA
ZEUS-POWER
ACHILLES-COURAGE
MERCURY-SPEED

WAIT!

THAT GIVES ME A GREAT
IDEA! THE ONE WAY TO CRUSH
CAPTAIN MARVEL IS THROUGH
SHAZAM! I'VE GOT TO FIND
SHAZAM HIMSELF AND
WORK ON HIM!
HEH, HEH, HEH!

BUT WHERE IS **SHAZAM**?
THAT'S ONE SECRET I
NEVER FOUND OUT! I
CAN'T JUST GO AND
ASK BILLY OR
CAPTAIN MARVEL!
BUT I'VE GOT TO
FIND OUT! LET
ME THINK...
THINK...
THINK!



MEANWHILE, LET
US LOOK INTO THE
MODEST HOME
OF MR. TAWKY
TAWNY, THE
WELL-KNOWN
TALKING
TIGER!

I'M WRITING MY MEMOIRS!
LET'S SEE... CAPTAIN MARVEL,
MY GREAT FRIEND, IS THE
WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL!
HE GAINED HIS POWERS FROM
SHAZAM, THE WIZARD!
THIS ALL HAPPENED WHEN.....?



DEAR ME! I CAN'T FINISH!
IT JUST OCCURS TO ME NOW
THAT I REALLY KNOW NOTHING
OF CAPTAIN MARVEL'S
ORIGIN AT ALL!



BILLY BATSON OFTEN DROPS IN ON HIS
DEAR FRIEND, AND...

HELLO,
MR. TAWNY!
HOW ARE
YOUR
MEMOIRS
GOING?

I'M STUCK, BILLY! TELL
ME, WHEN, WHERE AND
HOW DID CAPTAIN
MARVEL COME INTO
EXISTENCE?



THIS IS A SECRET
THAT BILLY TELLS
ONLY TO TRUSTED
FRIENDS!

IT'S A LONG STORY,
MR. TAWNY! BUT
COME WITH ME! I
THINK IT'S TIME YOU
KNEW ALL ABOUT
CAPTAIN MARVEL,
SINCE YOU'VE HAD
SO MANY ADVENTURES
WITH HIM!



BILLY LEADS THE WAY TO AN OLD
FORGOTTEN SUBWAY TUNNEL!

MANY YEARS AGO, AS A
RAGGED NEWSBOY, I WAS
LED TO THIS TUNNEL MYSELF!
DOWN AT THE END OF IT
I MET THE EGYPTIAN
WIZARD!



ALTHOUGH HE IS GONE FROM EARTH AND LIVES AT
THE ROCK OF ETERNITY, I CAN STILL SUMMON
HIS SPIRIT BY LIGHTING THIS BRAZIER!

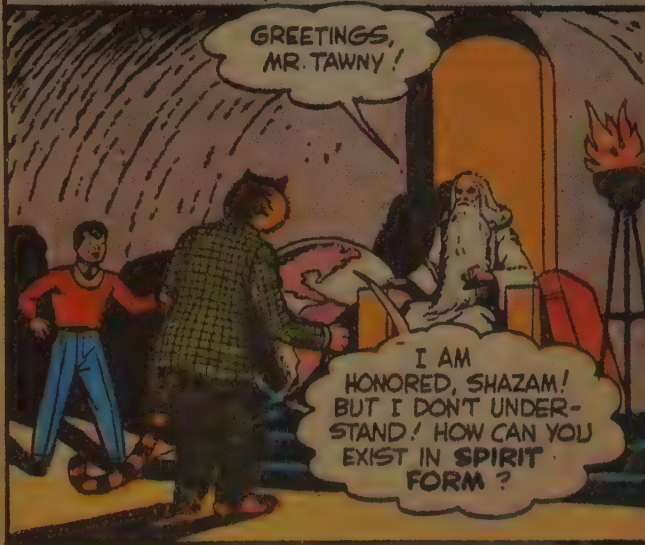
I AM HERE,
MY SON!



FOR THE FIRST TIME, MR. TAWNY MEETS SHAZAM!

GREETINGS,
MR. TAWNY!

I AM
HONORED, SHAZAM!
BUT I DON'T UNDER-
STAND! HOW CAN YOU
EXIST IN SPIRIT
FORM?



BY MEANS OF THIS BRACELET, MADE OF AN ELEMENT UNKNOWN TO EARTHLY SCIENCE! IT'S CALLED **SHAZAMUM**! WITHOUT IT, I WOULD VANISH UTTERLY! WHOEVER WEARS THIS CAN ADOPT ETHEREAL FORM! AND IT ALSO ENABLES ME TO WHISK BACK AND FORTH FROM THE ROCK OF ETERNITY, IN THE WINK OF AN EYE!



NOW I MUST GO! YOU HAVE DONE WELL, MR. TAWNY, AIDING CAPTAIN MARVEL IN THE GREAT FIGHT AGAINST EVIL!

THANK YOU, GREAT SIR!



LATER, BACK AT MR. TAWNY'S HOME...

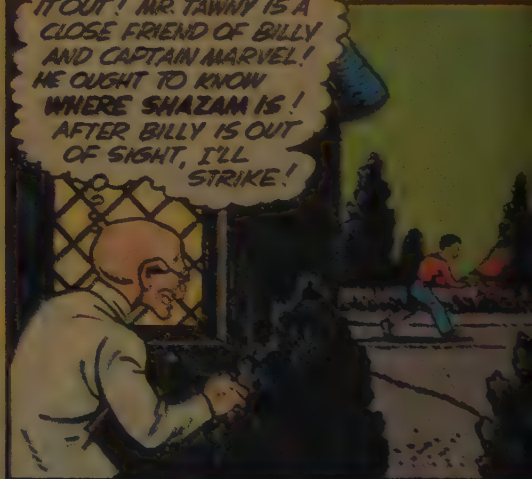
NOW I CAN FINISH MY MEMOIRS! THANKS, BILLY!

JUST ONE THING, MR. TAWNY--- DON'T WRITE DOWN WHERE THAT FORGOTTEN TUNNEL IS! NOBODY ELSE MUST EVER FIND THAT OUT! GOOD NIGHT!



BUT MEANWHILE, SIVANA HAS COME TO THE HOME OF MR. TAWNY!

I'VE FINALLY FIGURED IT OUT! MR. TAWNY IS A CLOSE FRIEND OF BILLY AND CAPTAIN MARVEL! HE OUGHT TO KNOW WHERE SHAZAM IS! AFTER BILLY IS OUT OF SIGHT, I'LL STRIKE!



FOR THE FIRST TIME, SIVANA AND MR. TAWNY MEET!

SIVANA! I RECOGNIZE YOU FROM YOUR PICTURES! YOU'RE THE MOST EVIL GENIUS ON EARTH!

GREETINGS, MR. TAWNY! I SEE MY REPUTATION PRECEDES ME! HEHHHH!

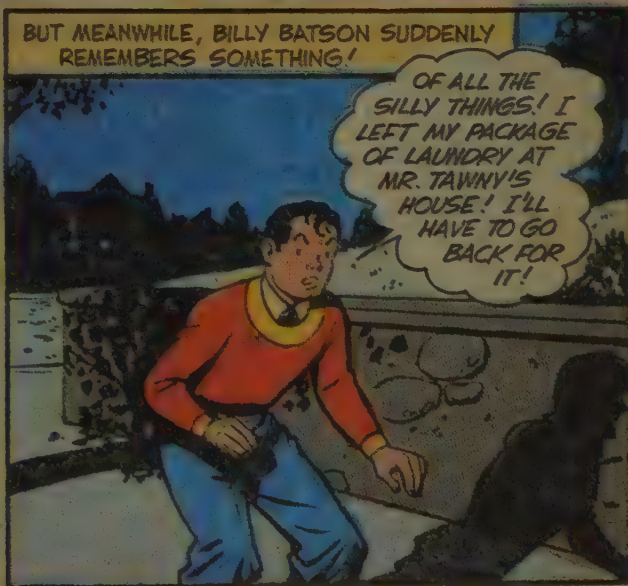
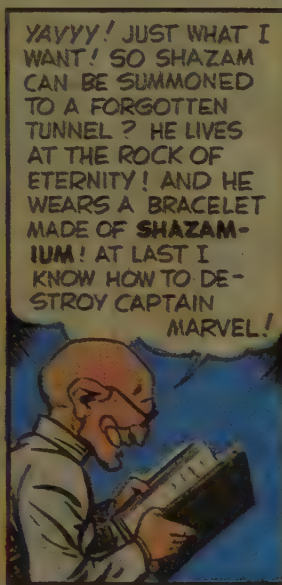


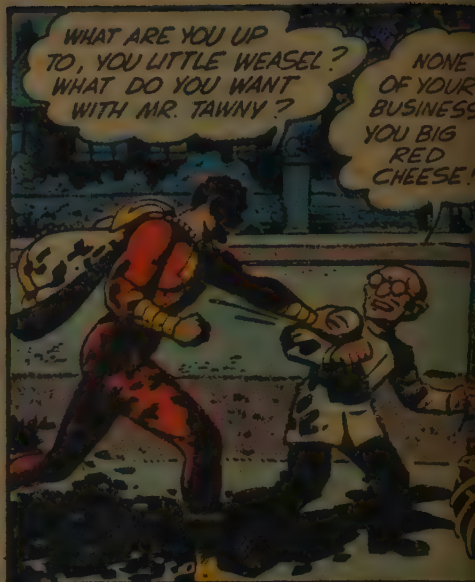
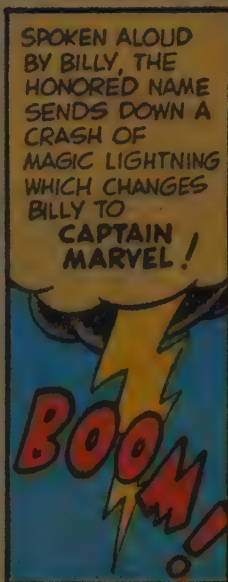
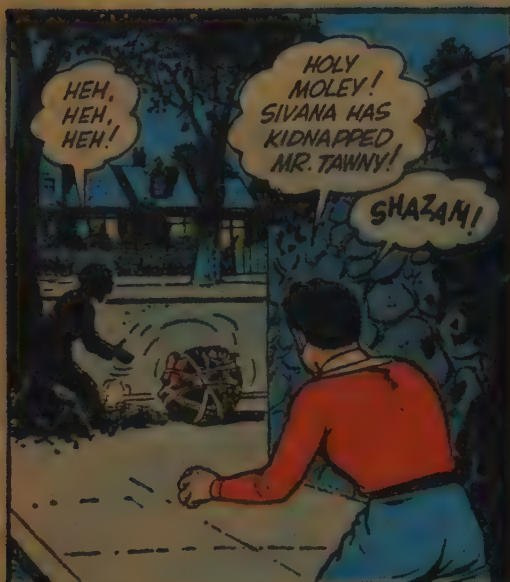
YOU MADE A MISTAKE COMING HERE!

DID I?



BILLY BATSON IS ALWAYS READY WITH HIS MANY EVIL INVENTIONS!





BUT THIS IS A TIME SHIP, DUMMY! I'M FADING OUT OF THE PRESENT, TO THE PAST! HOW CAN YOU CHASE ME THERE? HEH, HEH, HEHHHH!



BEFORE CAPTAIN MARVEL'S EYES, THE TIME SHIP FADES AWAY INTO NOTHINGNESS!

HOLY MOLEY! HE GOT AWAY... WITH MR. TAWNY AS HIS PRISONER!



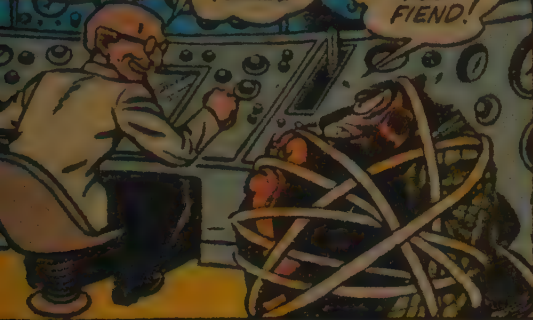
WHERE DID HE GO? HOW FAR INTO THE PAST? AND WHAT DOES HE WANT FROM MR. TAWNY? I DON'T LIKE THIS ONE LITTLE BIT! AND YET, WHAT CAN I DO? HOW CAN I CHASE HIM THROUGH TIME?



CRUISING INTO THE PAST, SIVANA REVEALS HER GHASTLY PLOT TO HELPLESS MR. TAWNY!

I'M GOING BACK TO THE TIME CAPTAIN MARVEL WAS FIRST CALLED FORTH BY SHAZAM! BUT I'M GOING TO ARRIVE A LITTLE BEFORE THAT AND AMBUSH BILLY IN THE TUNNEL!

BUT I'LL NEVER TELL YOU HOW TO FIND THE TUNNEL, YOU FIEND!



OH, YES, YOU WILL! UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THIS HYPNO RAY, YOU HAVE NO WILL TO RESIST MY QUESTION! WHERE IS THE TUNNEL?

I WON'T TELL! I---UH--- UH---



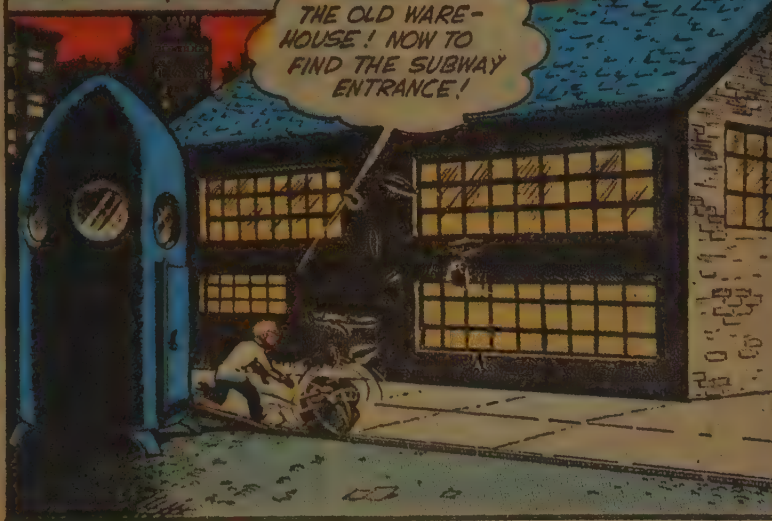
UNDER THE POWERFUL HYPNO RAY, MR. TAWNY IS FORCED TO ANSWER!

I OBEY! THE TUNNEL IS AT THE CORNER OF SLUMM STREET AND NINTH, BEHIND THE OLD WAREHOUSE!



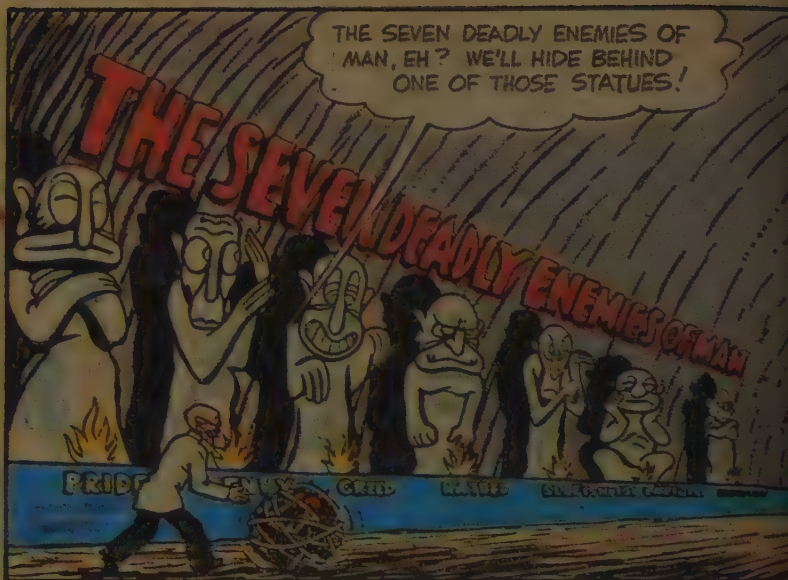
THE TIME SHIP LANDS IN THE PAST, AND...

HERE'S THE OLD WAREHOUSE! NOW TO FIND THE SUBWAY ENTRANCE!



HERE IT IS! WE'RE BACK
IN TIME BEFORE
BILLY BATSON
FIRST ENTERED!
I'VE TIMED ALL
THIS PERFECTLY!

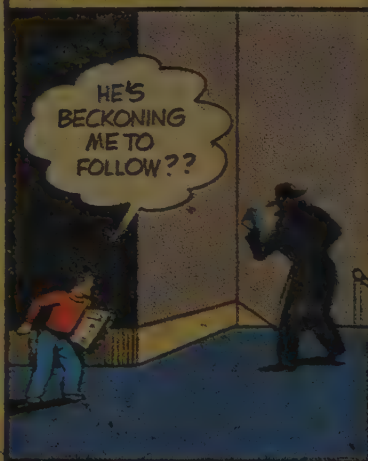
SUBWAY



I WANT YOU TO SEE THIS, MR. TAWNY!
SOON BILLY WILL COME! I'LL NAB HIM
HERE, BEFORE HE REACHES THE
THRONE OF SHAZAM --- AND BEFORE
CAPTAIN MARVEL IS CREATED! AND
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO YELL
TO WARN HIM! HEHHH!



MEANWHILE, OUTSIDE, THE
BILLY BATSON OF THE PAST
IS MET BY A MYSTERIOUS,
DARK FIGURE!

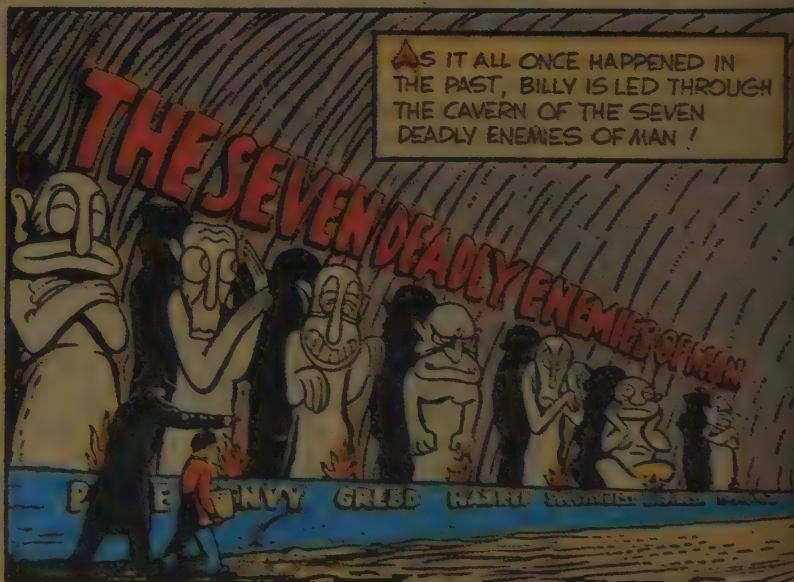


WHY ARE
YOU TAKING ME
INTO THIS OLD
ABANDONED
SUBWAY
TUNNEL?



THIS IS THE BILLY BATSON
OF YEARS BACK---A
YOUNG NEWSBOY WHO
DOES NOT KNOW THAT
HE HAS BEEN SELECTED
BY SHAZAM TO BECOME
THE FUTURE CAPTAIN
MARVEL! HE DOES NOT
YET KNOW OF THE GREAT
AND BLAZING CAREER
FOR WHICH HE IS
DESTINED AS THE WORLD'S
MIGHTIEST MORTAL!

THIS IS BILLY BATSON
BEFORE CAPTAIN MARVEL
EVER EXISTED!

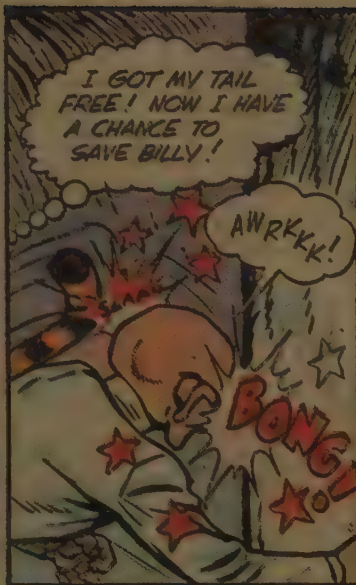




THE LURKING SIVANA IS READY TO STRIKE!

HAH! NOW TO CAPTURE AND KILL BILLY! CAPTAIN MARVEL WILL NEVER COME INTO EXISTENCE AT ALL! HEH, HEH!

I'M HELPLESS TO STOP HIM! WAIT...



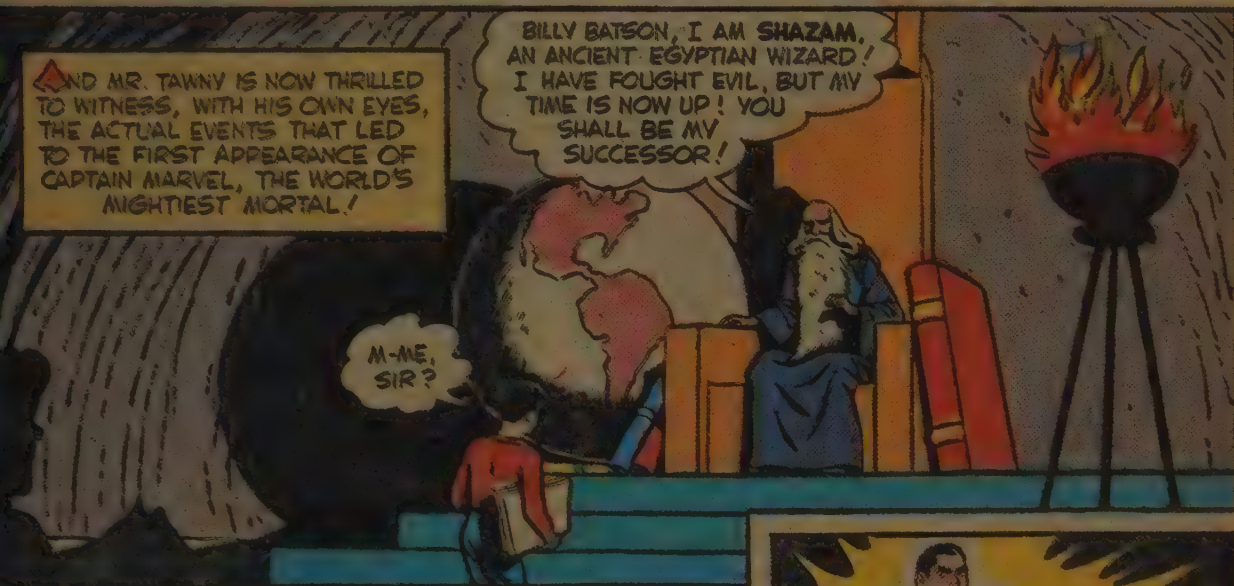
I GOT MY TAIL FREE! NOW I HAVE A CHANCE TO SAVE BILLY!

AWRKK!

BONG!



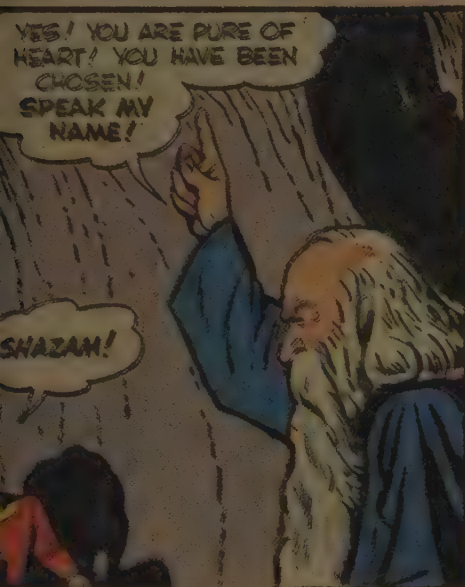
HE'S OUT COLD! NOW ALL WILL GO ON AS BEFORE ---BILLY WILL REACH THE THRONE, MEET SHAZAM, AND...



AND MR. TAWNY IS NOW THRILLED TO WITNESS, WITH HIS OWN EYES, THE ACTUAL EVENTS THAT LED TO THE FIRST APPEARANCE OF CAPTAIN MARVEL, THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL!

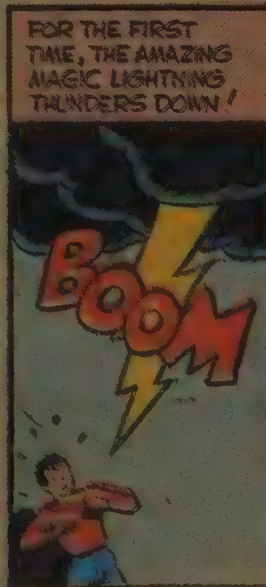
BILLY BATSON, I AM SHAZAM, AN ANCIENT EGYPTIAN WIZARD! I HAVE FOUGHT EVIL, BUT MY TIME IS NOW UP! YOU SHALL BE MY SUCCESSOR!

M-ME, SIR?



YES! YOU ARE PURE OF HEART! YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN! SPEAK MY NAME!

SHAZAM!



FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE AMAZING MAGIC LIGHTNING THUNDERS DOWN!

BOOM!



AND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY CAPTAIN MARVEL, THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MAN, APPEARS!

BUT NOW, THE BLOCK OF STONE, THAT HAD HUNG BY A THREAD ABOVE SHAZAM'S THRONE, CRASHES DOWN UPON THE WISE WIZARD!

SNAP
SO IT IS WRITTEN THAT I MUST GO!

CRASH!

BUT A MOMENT LATER, THE SPIRIT OF SHAZAM ARISES, AND...

I NAME YOU--- CAPTAIN MARVEL! THROUGH MY NAME YOU ARE GIVEN THE POWERS OF THESE SIX MIGHTY HEROES! HENCEFORTH, YOU WILL FIGHT EVIL ON EARTH!

SOLOMON WISDOM
HERCULES STRENGTH
ATLAS STAMINA
ZEUS POWER
ACHILLES COURAGE
MERCURY SPEED

YES, GREAT SIR!

THAT WAS SIMPLY WONDERFUL! I SAW THE ACTUAL ORIGIN OF CAPTAIN MARVEL! THERE HE GOES NOW, OUT INTO THE WORLD, TO BEGIN HIS BLAZING CAREER AGAINST EVIL AND INJUSTICE! BUT WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO ME NOW? SIVANA IS COMING TO!

PRIDE ENVY--GRE

YES, WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MR. TAWNY? UNAWARE OF THEIR PRESENCE, THE NEW CAPTAIN MARVEL PASSES THEM BY! FOILED IN HIS FIRST MOVE, WHAT WILL WICKED SIVANA TRY NOW? THE NEXT STORY IN THIS ISSUE WILL GIVE YOU THE AMAZING ANSWER!

FREDDY FREEMAN



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Captain MARVEL

BATTLES THE PLOT AGAINST THE UNIVERSE

FROM HERE
I SHALL RULE THE
UNIVERSE!
HEHHHHHHH!

NOT IF
I CAN STOP
YOU,
SIVANA!

PART 2

THE INVASION OF THE ROCK OF ETERNITY

IN THE PREVIOUS STORY, SIVANA FAILED TO DESTROY BILLY BATSON AND CAPTAIN MARVEL / BUT THE EVIL GENIUS IS STILL ARMED WITH VITAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE SECRETS OF SHAZAM, THE SHAZAMIUM BRACELET, AND THE ROCK OF ETERNITY! SO NOW THE MAD SCIENTIST LAUNCHES ANOTHER CUNNING PLAN THAT THREATENS TO GIVE HIM CONTROL OF THE ROCK OF ETERNITY ITSELF, HUB OF THE UNIVERSE!

SIVANA HAS NOW REGAINED HIS SENSES AND IS FILLED WITH MAD RAGE AT MR. TAWNY'S INTERFERENCE WITH HIS EVIL PLAN!

CURSES!
YOU KNOCKED ME
OUT AND LET THE CREATION
OF CAPTAIN MARVEL OCCUR!
I'LL GET YOU FOR THAT,
MR. TAWNY!

GULP! I'M
SUNK!
WAIT...

...BY SHIFTING MY
WEIGHT I CAN ROLL
AWAY! NOW IF
I COULD JUST
GET OUT OF
THESE ROPES...

HATRE





GET IN THERE AND WORK THE CONTROLS!

WHEN WE GET TO 1949 I'LL HAVE TO ESCAPE---SOMEHOW! WAIT, I KNOW! THIS WILL BE CLEVER!



WHEN THEY STEP OUT IN 1949

TO THE POLICE!

HEH, HEH! NOW'S THE TIME TO TURN THE TABLES! TAWNY HAS NO CLOTHES ON, SO...



HELP! WILD TIGER! HE ESCAPED FROM THE ZOO!

WHAT?

OMIGOSH! LOOK!

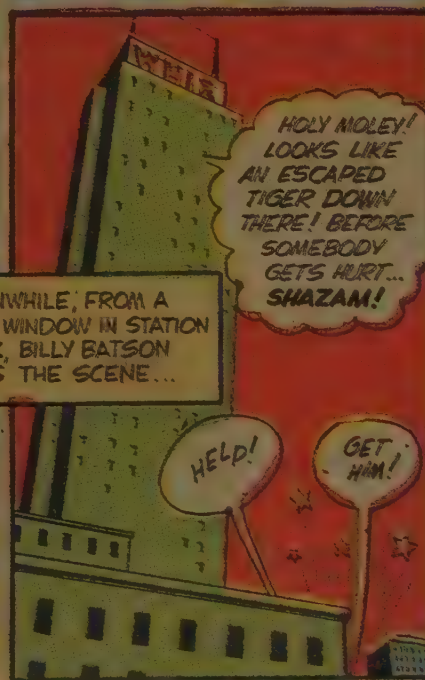


KEEP THAT WILD TIGER AT BAY! CORNER HIM!

STOP! WAIT! OH, THEY WON'T LISTEN!



THE EXCITEMENT, EVERYBODY NOTICED ME ALL! I'M FREE! NOW BACK TO MY HID! HEH, HEH. HEHHHHH!



MEANWHILE, FROM A HIGH WINDOW IN STATION WHIZ, BILLY BATSON SEES THE SCENE...

HOLY MOLEY! LOOKS LIKE AN ESCAPED TIGER DOWN THERE! BEFORE SOMEBODY GETS HURT... SHAZAM!



MAGIC LIGHTNING FAITHFULLY THUNDERS DOWN AT THE NAME, AND CAPTAIN MARVEL REPLACES BILLY!

BOOM!

CAPTAIN MARVEL RECOGNIZES HIS TIGER FRIEND!



HOLY MOLEY! STOP, FOLKS! THIS IS MR. TAWNY, THE CIVILIZED TIGER!

AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU, CAPTAIN MARVEL!



SIVANA GOT AWAY!

WHERE DID SIVANA TAKE YOU, MR. TAWNY YOU'VE BEEN GONE HOURS!



I'LL TAKE YOU TO YOUR HOME AND YOU CAN TELL ME THE WHOLE STORY! WE HAVE TO FIGURE OUT WHAT SIVANA'S NEXT MOVE WILL BE!



LATER, THE FIGURE OF BILLY BATSON AGAIN ENTERS THE FORGOTTEN TUNNEL, BUT THIS IS IN 1949, NOT THE PAST!

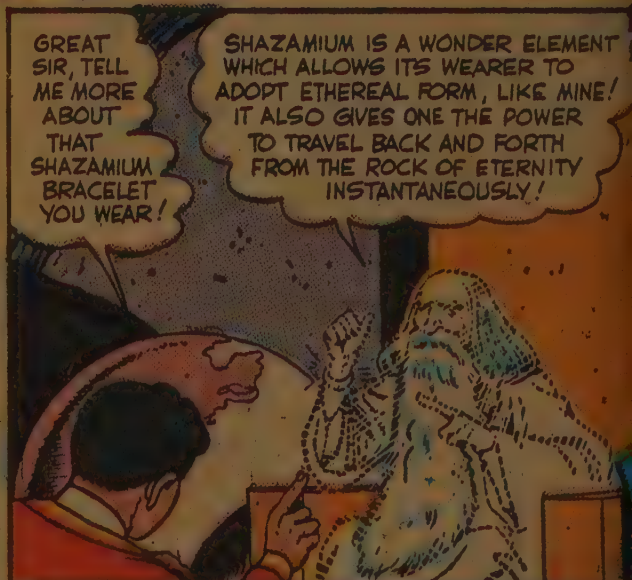
FAST THE STATUES, TO THE THRONE...

PRIDE ENVY GREED HATRED SINFULNESS



NOW TO LIGHT THE BRAZIER AND SUMMON THE SPIRIT OF THE OLD MAGICIAN!

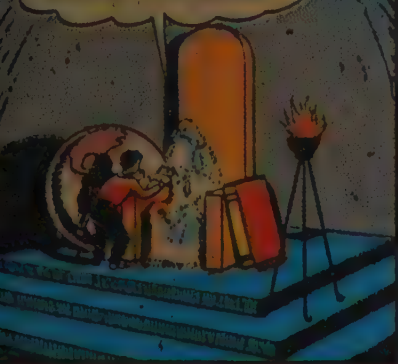
YES, MY SON? WHAT IS IT?



GREAT SIR, TELL ME MORE ABOUT THAT SHAZAMUM BRACELET YOU WEAR!

SHAZAMUM IS A WONDER ELEMENT WHICH ALLOWS ITS WEARER TO ADOPT ETHEREAL FORM, LIKE MINE! IT ALSO GIVES ONE THE POWER TO TRAVEL BACK AND FORTH FROM THE ROCK OF ETERNITY INSTANTANEOUSLY!

DO YOU WISH TO SEE IT CLOSELY, BILLY? HERE, TAKE IT--- BUT RETURN IT QUICKLY! WITHOUT IT ON MY ARM, I WOULD FADE AWAY INTO NOTHINGNESS IN 24 HOURS! IT MEANS LIFE TO ME!



BUT NOW, THERE ARISES AN OMINOUS, MOCKING CHUCKLE!

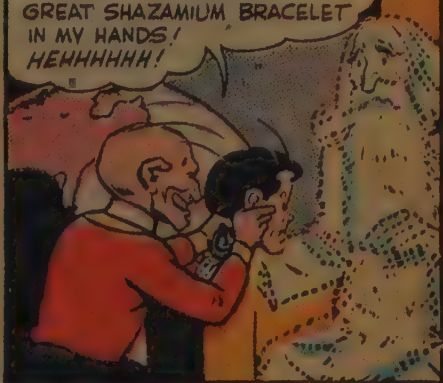
HEH, HEH, HEH, HEH, HEH, HEH, HEH!

BILLY! THAT EVIL CHUCKLE! YOU SOUND LIKE SIVANA!



STARTLING REVELATION!

I AM SIVANA, SHAZAM! HEH, HEH! OF ALL MY CLEVER DISGUISES, THIS HAS BEEN THE MOST CUNNING OF ALL! IT WAS THE ONE WAY I COULD GET THE GREAT SHAZAM IUM BRACELET IN MY HANDS! HEHHHHHH!



WHAT HAVE I DONE? WITHOUT THAT BRACELET, I AM POWERLESS!

EXACTLY WHAT I FIGURED! HEH! I FAILED TO STOP THE CREATION OF CAPTAIN MARVEL, BUT NOW I HAVE YOU IN MY POWER, SHAZAM! I'LL PUT ON THE BRACELET!



THE AMAZING SHAZAM IUM BRACELET GIVES SIVANA THE SAME ETHEREAL FORM THAT SHAZAM HAS!

MY HAND PASSES RIGHT THROUGH SOLID MATTER! HEH, HEH! THIS IS BETTER THAN BEING A GHOST!



AND YOU'RE MY PRISONER, SHAZAM! NOW OFF TO THE ROCK OF ETERNITY!

I AM HELPLESS TO RESIST!



IN THE WINK OF AN EYE, THROUGH THE POWER OF THE SHAZAM IUM BRACELET, THEY ARE HURLED BEYOND SPACE AND TIME TO THE ROCK OF ETERNITY, WHERE SHAZAM HAS DWELLED!



FROM HERE, I WILL SOON RULE THE UNIVERSE! HEH, HEH, HEHHHHH!

SHORTLY AFTER, THE REAL BILLY BATSON VISITS THE SECRET TUNNEL!

MR. TAWNY TOLD ME THE WHOLE STORY OF SIVANA'S VISIT TO THE PAST, AND HIS ATTEMPT TO DESTROY ME! I THINK SHAZAM HIMSELF MAY BE IN DANGER NOW! I'D BETTER WARN HIM!



NOW, AS USUAL, I LIGHT THE BRAZIER TO SUMMON HIS SPIRIT!

HEH, HEH.



BILLY BATSON RECEIVES THE SHOCK OF HIS LIFE!

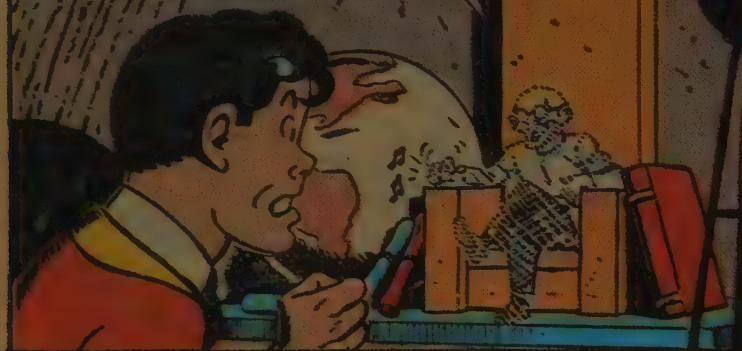
HOLY MOLEY! THAT'S NOT THE EGYPTIAN INZARD! IT'S SIVANA!

YES, MY SON! WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU? OH HEH, HEH, HEH, HEH, HEH!

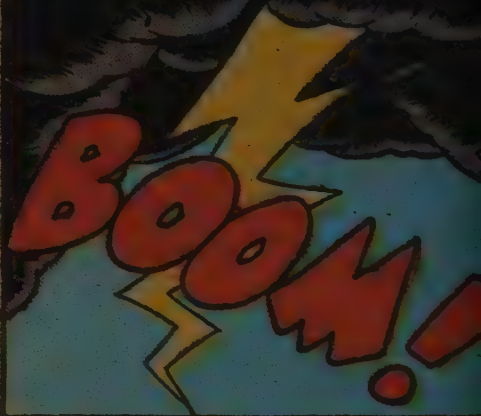


CAPTAIN MARVEL WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU! SHAZAM!

GO AHEAD! CHANGE TO THAT RED OX! I'M NOT WORRIED! ♪ HUM DE DUM ♪

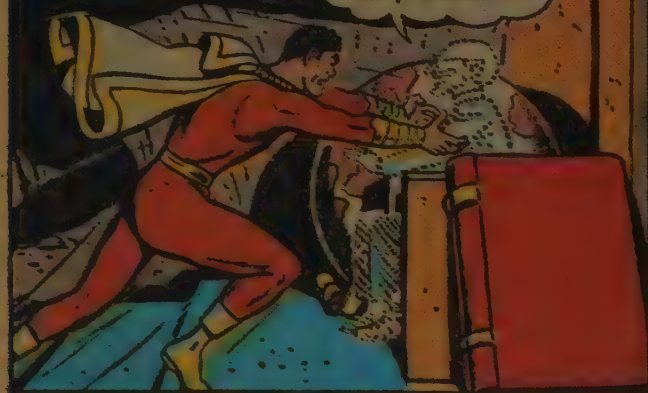


THE MAGIC LIGHTNING COMES AS USUAL FOR AS LONG AS SHAZAM EXISTS, THE WORD WILL NOT FAIL BILLY!



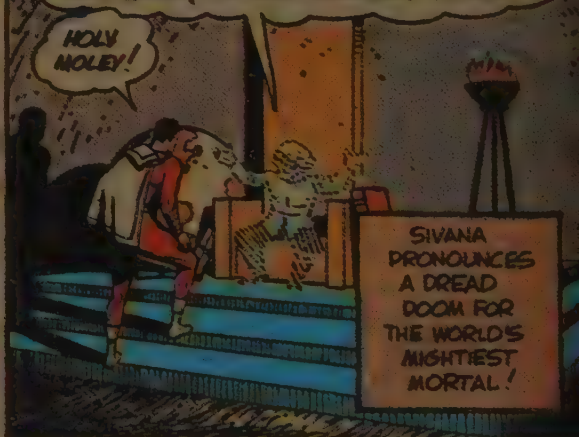
I'LL GRAB YOU AND --- HOLY MOLEY! IT'S LIKE GRABBING SMOKE!

SURE! I'M IN ETHEREAL FORM NOW, JUST LIKE OLD SHAZAM! ALL YOUR MIGHTY STRENGTH CAN'T HARM ONE HAIR OF MY HEAD--- IF I HAD ANY! HEH, HEHHHHH!



AND LOOK! WITHOUT THIS SHAZAMIUM BRACELET, OLD SHAZAM WILL FADE AWAY INTO LIMBO, IN 24 HOURS! AND WITH HIS PASSING, YOU, TOO, WILL VANISH! IN 24 HOURS THERE WON'T BE ANY MORE, CAPTAIN MARVEL! HEHHH!

HOLY MOLEY!



SIVANA PRONOUNCES A DREAD DOOM FOR THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL!

DESPERATELY, FRANTICALLY, CAPTAIN MARVEL
CAN TRY TO SEIZE HIS ARCH ENEMY!

LOOK, YOU BRAINLESS BOOB!
I CAN OOOZE THROUGH SOLID
WALLS! TOODLE-OO!



I'VE GOT
TO GET THAT
BRACELET!

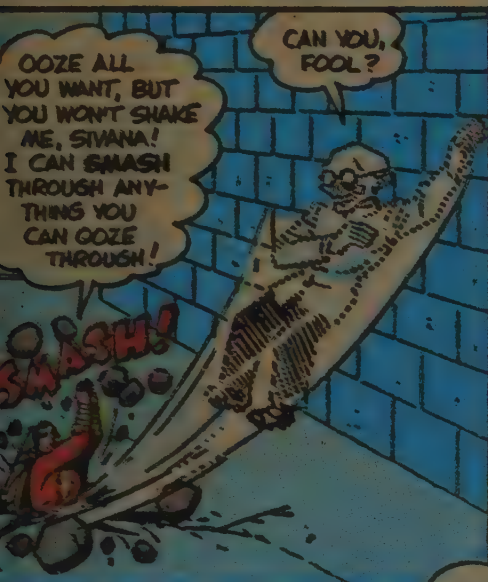
I CAN "OOZE"
THROUGH SOLID ROCK
MYSELF, IN MY
OWN WAY!



SO YOU
WANT TO
PLAY TAG,
EH?

OOZE ALL
YOU WANT, BUT
YOU WON'T SHAKE
ME, SIVANA!
I CAN SMASH
THROUGH ANY-
THING YOU
CAN OOOZE
THROUGH!

CAN YOU,
FOOL?



SMASH!

HOW ABOUT SMASHING
INTO THIS PLACE---AND
LETTING A FLOOD POUR
OUT? WELL?
COME ON!



HOLY
MOLEY!

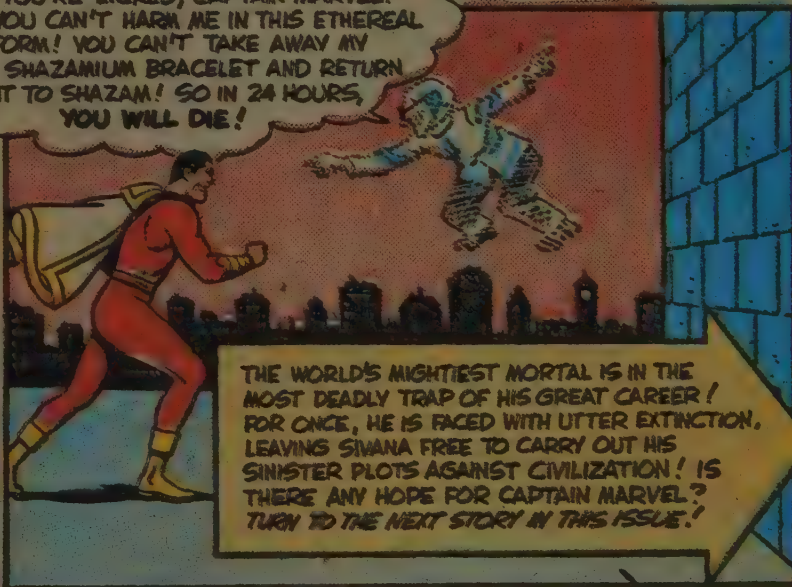
WATER
PURIFYING
PLANT

No.
2

I CAN'T KEEP CHASING
SIVANA AND SMASHING DOWN
EVERY WALL HE OOOZES
THROUGH! I'D WRECK
THE CITY!



YOU'RE LICKED, CAPTAIN MARVEL!
YOU CAN'T HARM ME IN THIS ETHEREAL
FORM! YOU CAN'T TAKE AWAY MY
SHAZAMIUM BRACELET AND RETURN
IT TO SHAZAM! SO IN 24 HOURS,
YOU WILL DIE!

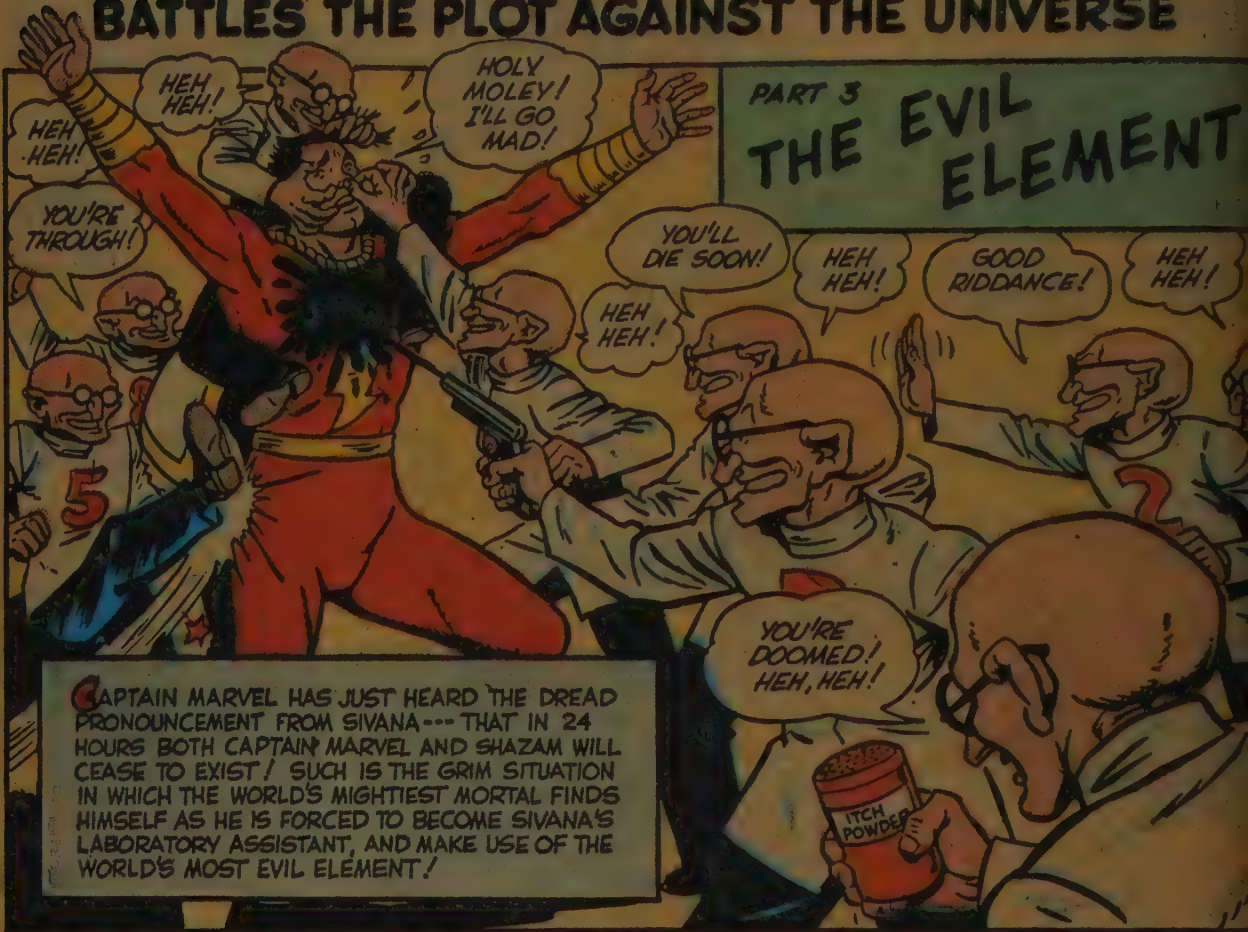


THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL IS IN THE
MOST DEADLY TRAP OF HIS GREAT CAREER!
FOR ONCE, HE IS FACED WITH UTTER EXTINCTION,
LEAVING SIVANA FREE TO CARRY OUT HIS
SINISTER PLOTS AGAINST CIVILIZATION! IS
THERE ANY HOPE FOR CAPTAIN MARVEL?
TURN TO THE NEXT STORY IN THIS ISSUE!

Captain MARVEL

BATTLES THE PLOT AGAINST THE UNIVERSE

PART 3 THE EVIL ELEMENT



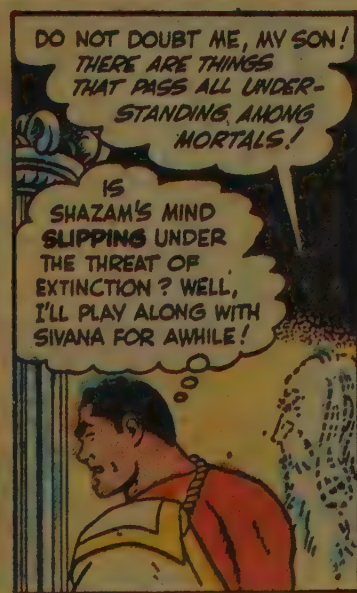
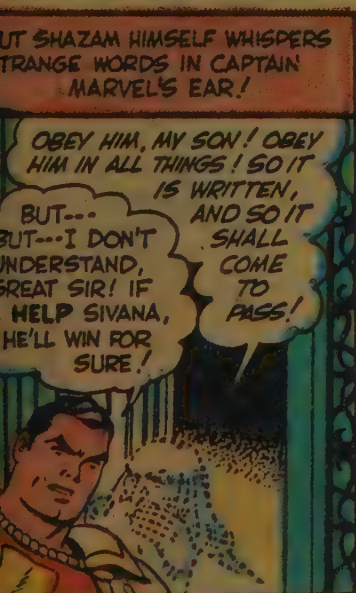
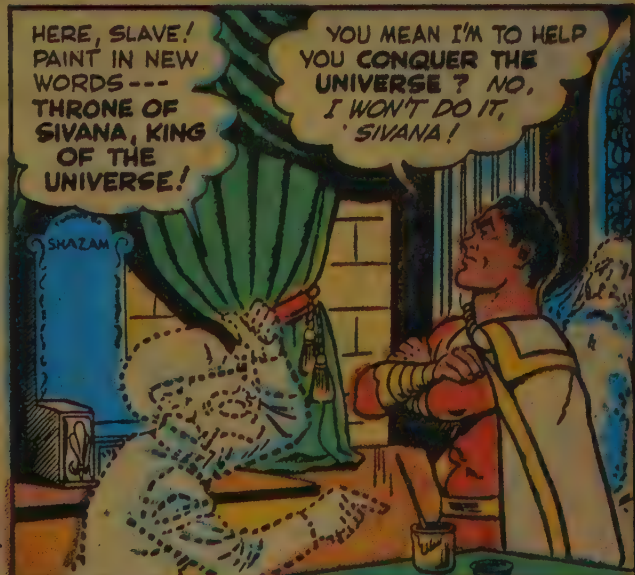
CAPTAIN MARVEL HAS JUST HEARD THE DREAD PRONOUNCEMENT FROM SIVANA--- THAT IN 24 HOURS BOTH CAPTAIN MARVEL AND SHAZAM WILL CEASE TO EXIST! SUCH IS THE GRIM SITUATION IN WHICH THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL FINDS HIMSELF AS HE IS FORCED TO BECOME SIVANA'S LABORATORY ASSISTANT, AND MAKE USE OF THE WORLD'S MOST EVIL ELEMENT!

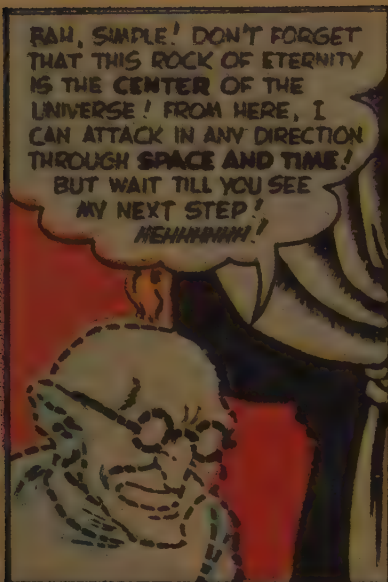
SIVANA MAKES A STRANGE BARGAIN WITH CAPTAIN MARVEL!

CAPTAIN MARVEL, I CAN USE YOU AND YOUR GREAT POWERS! IF YOU AGREE TO HELP ME IN CERTAIN THINGS, MAYBE I'LL GIVE THIS BRACELET BACK TO SHAZAM AND LET HIM LIVE!

WHAT?

HE'S LYING IN HIS TEETH! I KNOW THAT! HE WOULDN'T LET SHAZAM LIVE, AND THEREFORE ME! BUT WAIT--- BY PRETENDING TO HELP SIVANA, MAYBE I CAN YET FIND A WAY TO DEFEAT HIM! IT'S MY ONLY CHANCE!

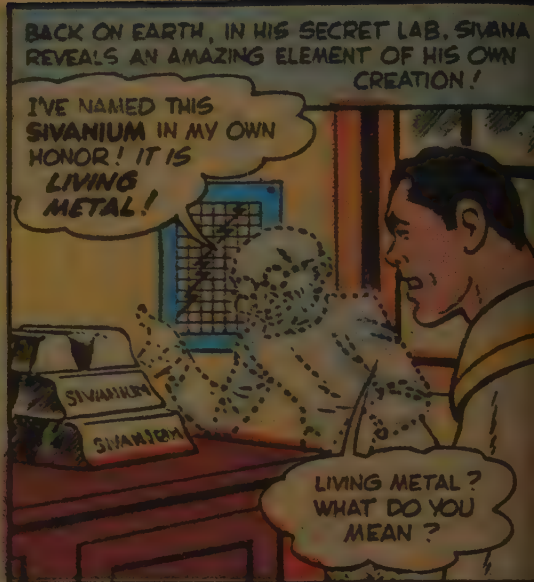




RAH, SIMPLE! DON'T FORGET THAT THIS ROCK OF ETERNITY IS THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE! FROM HERE, I CAN ATTACK IN ANY DIRECTION THROUGH SPACE AND TIME! BUT WAIT TILL YOU SEE MY NEXT STEP! NEHHHHH!



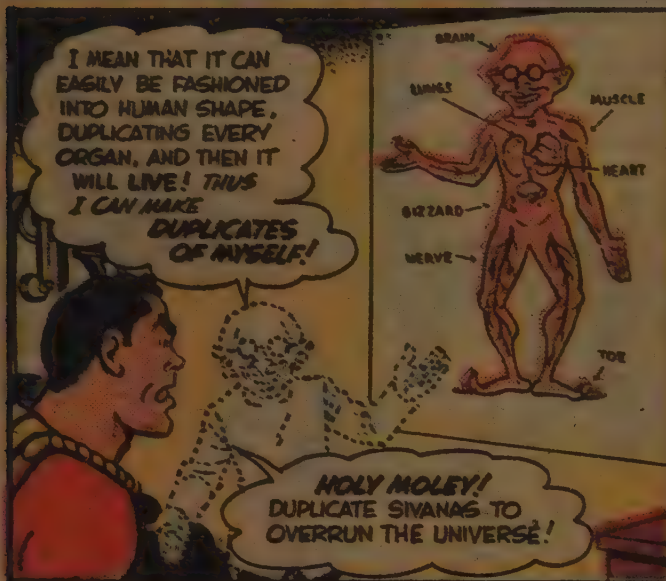
FOR THAT, WE GO BACK TO MY SECRET LABORATORY ON EARTH! COME ALONG, SLAVE!



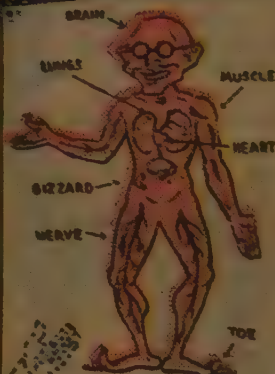
BACK ON EARTH, IN HIS SECRET LAB, SIVANA REVEALS AN AMAZING ELEMENT OF HIS OWN CREATION!

I'VE NAMED THIS SIVANUM IN MY OWN HONOR! IT IS **LIVING METAL!**

LIVING METAL? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



I MEAN THAT IT CAN EASILY BE FASHIONED INTO HUMAN SHAPE, DUPLICATING EVERY ORGAN, AND THEN IT WILL LIVE! **THUS I CAN MAKE DUPLICATES OF MYSELF!**

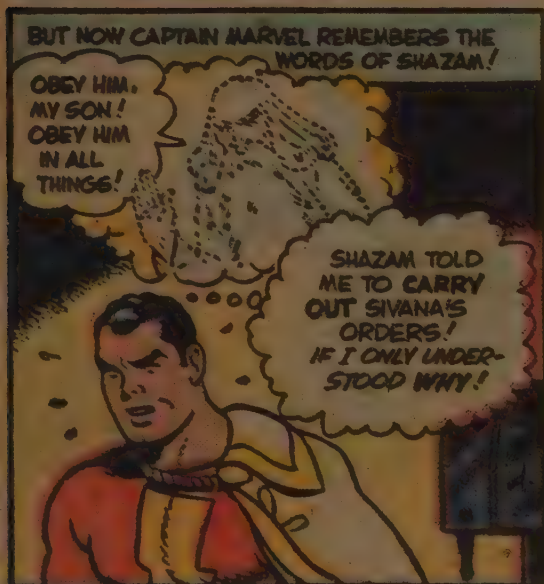


HOLY MOLEY! DUPLICATE SIVANAS TO OVERRUN THE UNIVERSE!



BUT OF COURSE, IN MY ETHEREAL FORM, I CAN'T HANDLE SOLID OBJECTS MYSELF! THAT'S WHY I NEED YOUR HELP! NOW GET TO WORK AND BUILD ME AN ARMY OF SIVANAS!

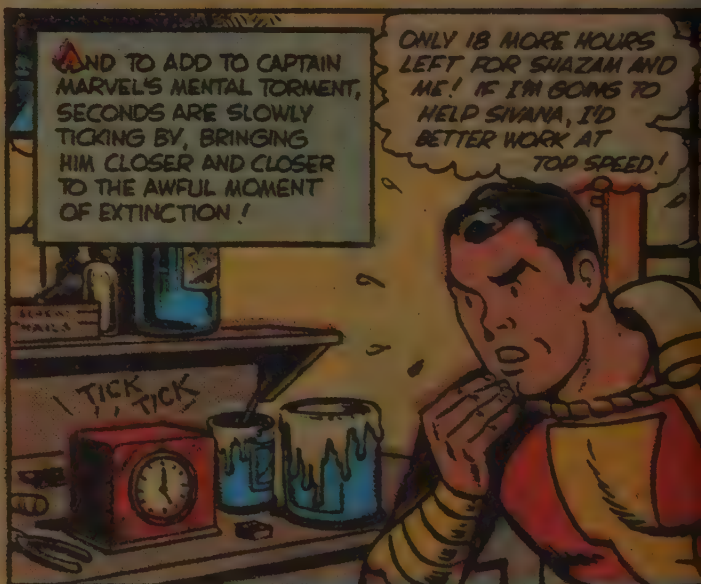
NO, I WON'T! I... UH...



BUT NOW CAPTAIN MARVEL REMEMBERS THE WORDS OF SHAZAM!

OBEY HIM, MY SON! OBEY HIM IN ALL THINGS!

SHAZAM TOLD ME TO CARRY OUT SIVANA'S ORDERS! IF I ONLY UNDERSTOOD WHY!



AND TO ADD TO CAPTAIN MARVEL'S MENTAL TORMENT, SECONDS ARE SLOWLY TICKING BY, BRINGING HIM CLOSER AND CLOSER TO THE AWFUL MOMENT OF EXTINCTION!

ONLY 18 MORE HOURS LEFT FOR SHAZAM AND ME! IF I'M GOING TO HELP SIVANA, I'D BETTER WORK AT **TOP SPEED!**

THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL IS ABLE TO DO THE WORK OF HUNDREDS OF MEN, IN FASHIONING THE WEIRD SIVANIUM INTO HUMAN FORM!

THIS SIVANIUM CAN BE WORKED AND WELDED LIKE METAL, IN FORMING HUMAN SHAPE!



NOW PUT IN THE SIVANIUM BRAINS! MY DUPLICATES WILL BE EQUAL TO ME IN THINKING POWER! THOSE BRAINS ARE EXACT DUPLICATES OF MINE!



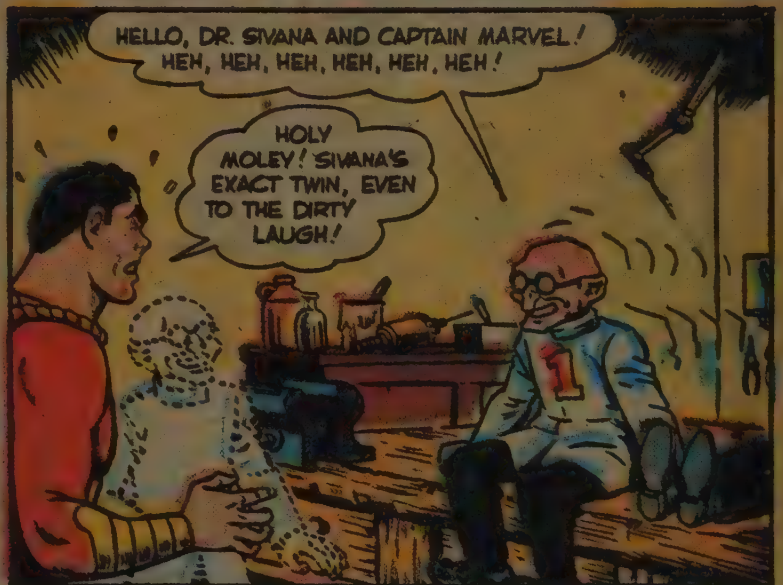
IT WILL
LY REALLY
COME
ALIVE?

OF COURSE,
IDIOT! WATCH!
ARISE, SIVANA
NUMBER ONE!



HELLO, DR. SIVANA AND CAPTAIN MARVEL!
HEH, HEH, HEH, HEH, HEH, HEH!

HOLY
MOLEY! SIVANA'S
EXACT TWIN, EVEN
TO THE DIRTY
LAUGH!



YES, AND I ALSO
HATE YOU, YOU BIG
RED CHEESE!
HEHEHE!

HEH,
HEH!



WHY, YOU LITTLE RODENT!
I'LL KNOCK YOU CLEAR
INTO NEXT FRIDAY!





STOP! WHAT GOOD DOES THAT DO YOU, CAPTAIN MARVEL? BEATING MY DUPLICATE WON'T HELP! IT'S ME YOU HAVE TO DEFEAT--- AND YOU CAN'T TOUCH ME IN MY ETHEREAL FORM! HEH, HEH!



NOW ARISE, ALL YOU SIVANA DUPLICATES!



NOW ALL TOGETHER--- GIVE CAPTAIN MARVEL YOUR FONDEST GREETINGS!

NYAAAAA!

HEH!

BOO!

DIG RED CHEESE!

BLAH!

OMIGOSH! ONE SIVANA WAS BAD ENOUGH--- BUT NOW THERE'S A WHOLE CROWD OF THEM!

WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MISTAKE!

RED BOOB!

THBBBBB!

HEH HEH!

BAAA!

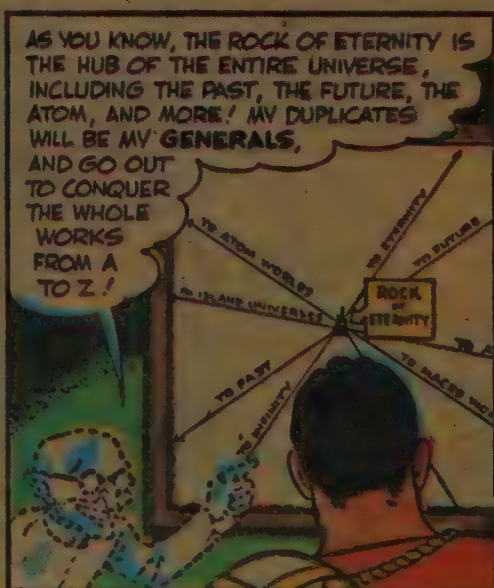
HEH HEH!

POOH!

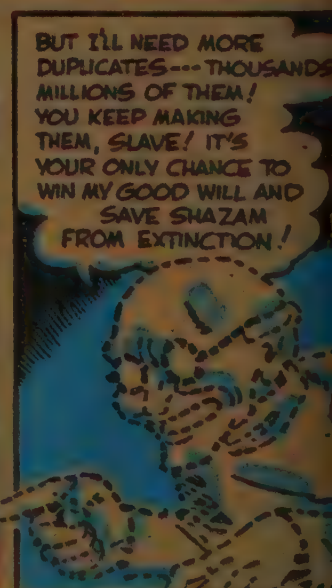


ALL RIGHT, SO YOU'VE GOT DUPLICATES! NOW WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THEM?

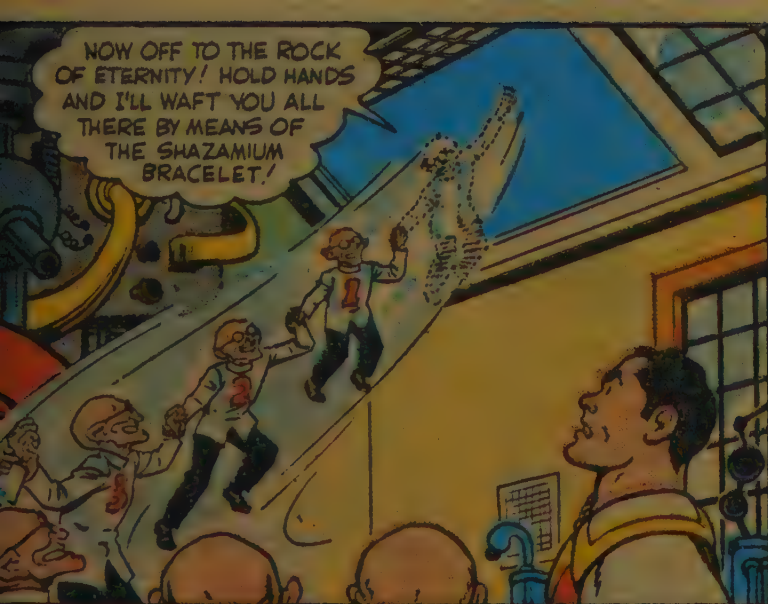
TAKE THEM TO THE ROCK OF ETERNITY, FOR A POW-WOW OF WAR AGAINST THE WHOLE UNIVERSE! HEH, HEH, HEHHHH!



AS YOU KNOW, THE ROCK OF ETERNITY IS THE HUB OF THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE, INCLUDING THE PAST, THE FUTURE, THE ATOM, AND MORE! MY DUPLICATES WILL BE MY GENERALS, AND GO OUT TO CONQUER THE WHOLE WORKS FROM A TO Z!



BUT I'LL NEED MORE DUPLICATES--- THOUSANDS, MILLIONS OF THEM! YOU KEEP MAKING THEM, SLAVE! IT'S YOUR ONLY CHANCE TO WIN MY GOOD WILL AND SAVE SHAZAM FROM EXTINCTION!



ALONE, CAPTAIN MARVEL IS OVERCOME BY BITTER HOPELESSNESS!

HOW CAN I STOP IT ALL? WILL SIVANA REALLY CONQUER THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE? THE WORST OF IT ALL IS THAT OLD SHAZAM COMMANDED ME TO KEEP HELPING SIVANA ALL THE TIME!





OH, IF I COULD ONLY DO THIS TO THE REAL SIVANA!

CRASH!



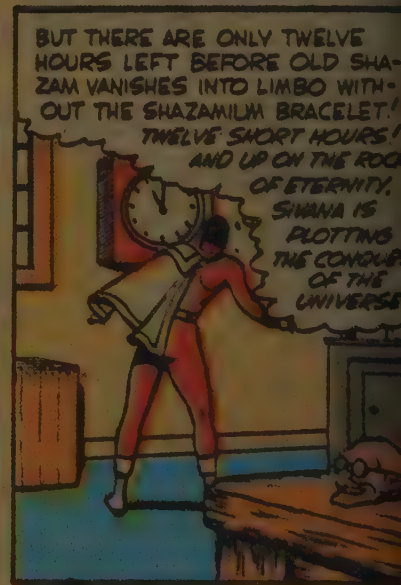
I SMASHED HIM TO BITS! I ONLY HAVE TO MAKE ANOTHER! BUT I SURE FEEL BETTER!



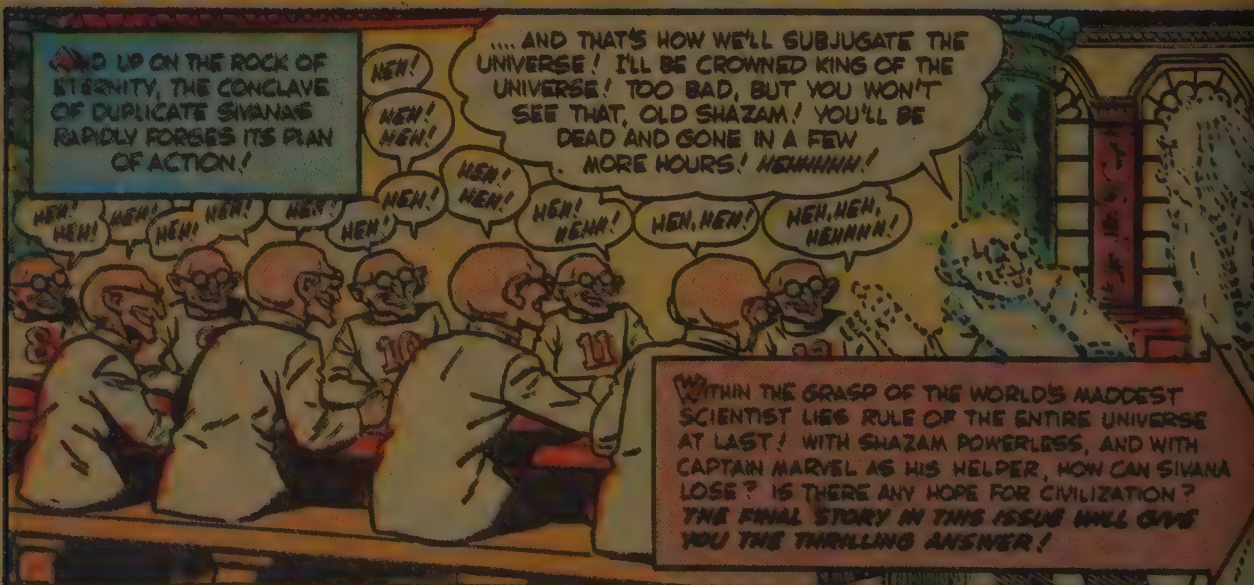
WELL, BACK TO WORK! BUT I STILL THINK SHAZAM WAS WRONG TO TELL ME TO HELP SIVANA! WHY DON'T I JUST WALK AWAY AND WASH MY HANDS OF IT?



NO! I'VE GOT TO STICK AROUND CLOSE TO SIVANA IN THE HOPE THAT SOMEHOW... SOMEHOW... I CAN DEFEAT HIM YET!



BUT THERE ARE ONLY TWELVE HOURS LEFT BEFORE OLD SHAZAM VANISHES INTO LIMBO WITHOUT THE SHAZAMILUM BRACELET! TWELVE SHORT HOURS! AND UP ON THE ROCK OF ETERNITY, SIVANA IS PLOTTING THE CONQUE OF THE UNIVERSE!



AND UP ON THE ROCK OF ETERNITY, THE CONCLAVE OF DUPLICATE SIVANAS RAPIDLY FORGES ITS PLAN OF ACTION!

...AND THAT'S HOW WE'LL SUBJUGATE THE UNIVERSE! I'LL BE CROWNED KING OF THE UNIVERSE! TOO BAD, BUT YOU WON'T SEE THAT, OLD SHAZAM! YOU'LL BE DEAD AND GONE IN A FEW MORE HOURS! HEHEHEHE!

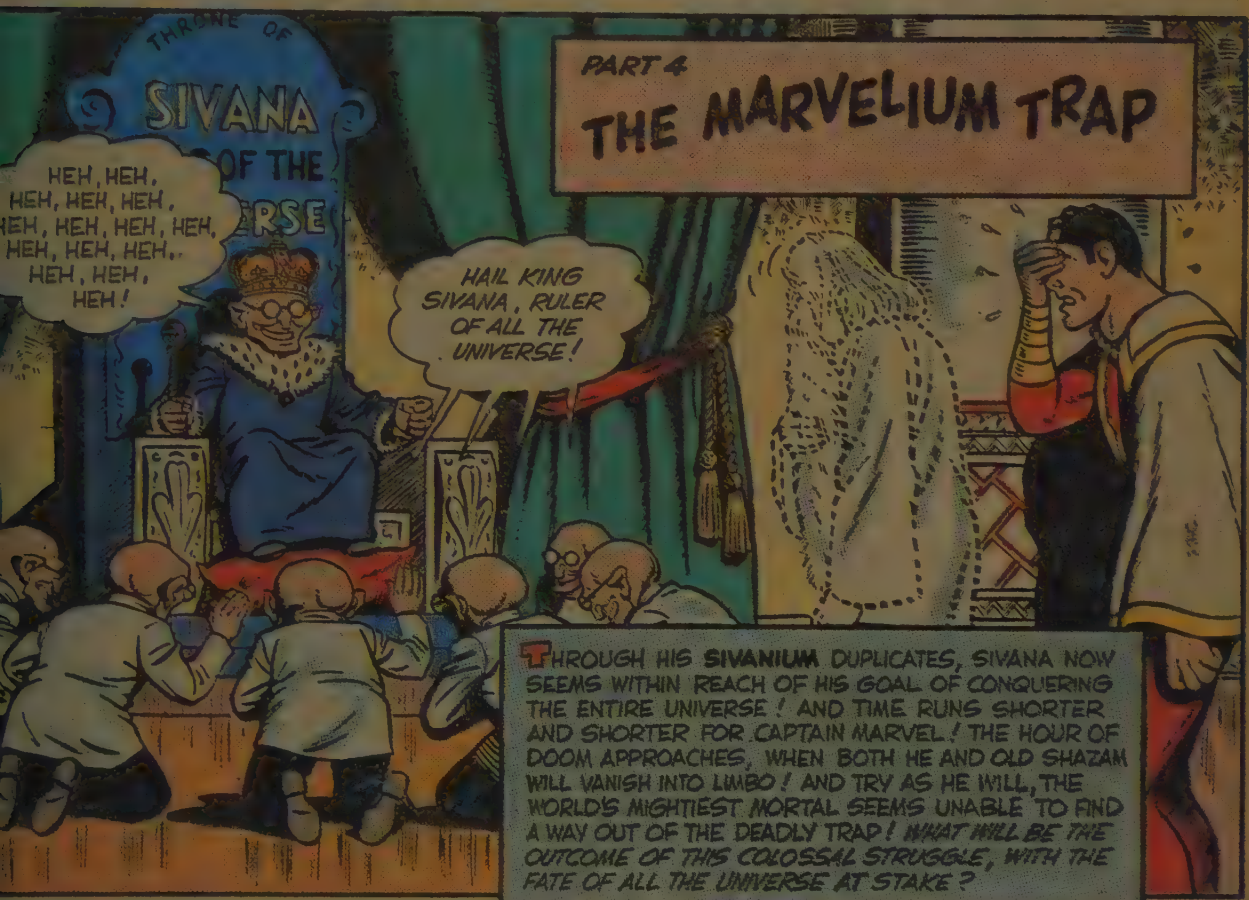
WITHIN THE GRASP OF THE WORLD'S MADDEST SCIENTIST LIES RULE OF THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE AT LAST! WITH SHAZAM POWERLESS, AND WITH CAPTAIN MARVEL AS HIS HELPER, HOW CAN SIVANA LOSE? IS THERE ANY HOPE FOR CIVILIZATION? THE FINAL STORY IN THIS ISSUE WILL GIVE YOU THE THRILLING ANSWER!

Captain MARVEL

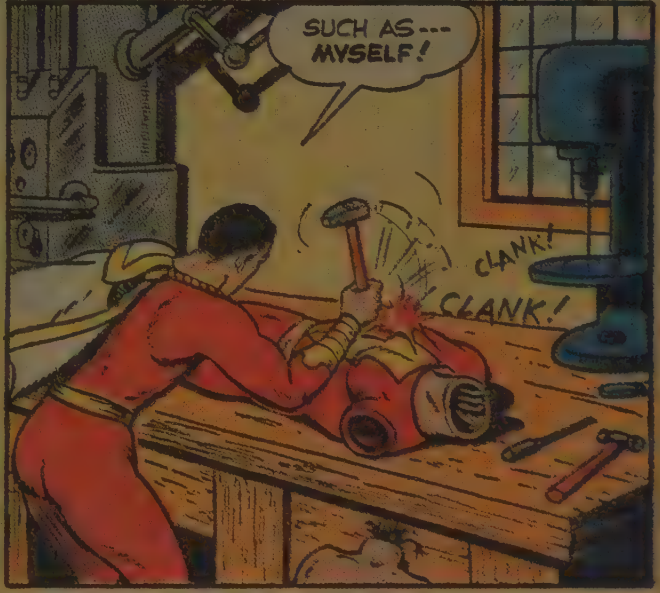
BATTLES THE PLOT AGAINST THE UNIVERSE

PART 4

THE MARVELIUM TRAP



BACK ON EARTH, IN SIVANA'S LABORATORY, CAPTAIN MARVEL SUDDENLY FINDS A RAY OF HOPE!



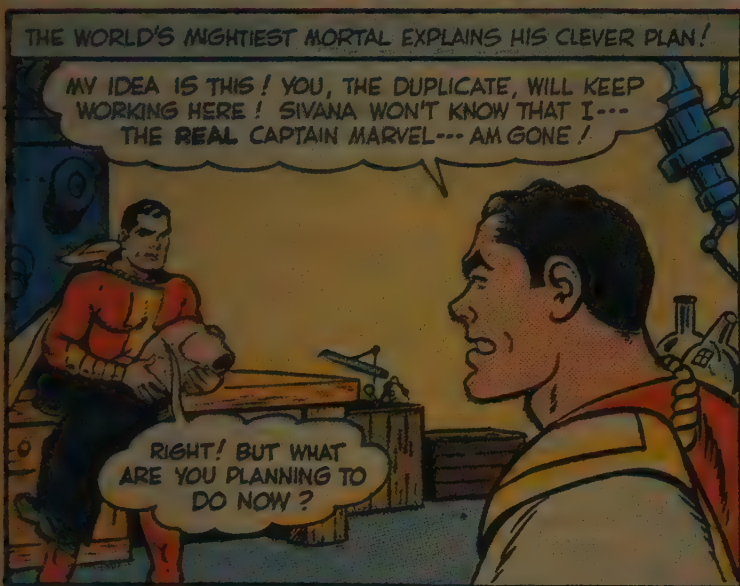


IF SIVANA CAN HAVE DUPLICATES, WHY CAN'T I? I TOOK AN X-RAY OF MY BRAIN AND MADE AN EXACT DUPLICATE OUT OF SIVANIUM!



HELLO, CAPTAIN MARVEL!

HELLO YOURSELF! HOLY MOLEY! THIS IS JUST LIKE LOOKING INTO A MIRROR!



THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL EXPLAINS HIS CLEVER PLAN!

MY IDEA IS THIS! YOU, THE DUPLICATE, WILL KEEP WORKING HERE! SIVANA WON'T KNOW THAT I--- THE REAL CAPTAIN MARVEL--- AM GONE!

RIGHT! BUT WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO NOW?



I'VE GOT TO FIND SOME WAY TO GET THAT BRACELET AWAY FROM SIVANA! THERE'S ONLY 8 HOURS LEFT! I'VE GOT TO SAVE THE EGYPTIAN WIZARD---AND MYSELF---AND THE UNIVERSE!

GOOD LUCK!



A LITTLE LATER, SIVANA'S ETHEREAL FORM SUDDENLY RETURNS FROM THE ROCK OF ETERNITY!

JUST WANTED TO CHECK UP ON YOU, CAPTAIN MARVEL, IN CASE YOU'D TRIED TO SKIP!

I'M HERE, SIVANA!



I GUESS YOU'VE GIVEN UP ALL HOPE OF DEFEATING ME, EH? HEH, HEH!

JUST ABOUT, SIVANA! I HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT I THINK THIS TIME YOU'LL WIN!

THE DUPLICATE CAPTAIN MARVEL PLAYS HIS PART TO THE FULL, LULLING ALL SUSPICION!



EVEN CAPTAIN MARVEL HAS GIVEN UP HOPE! HEH, HEH! HOW CAN I LOSE? NOW BACK TO THE ROCK OF ETERNITY, TO FINISH OUR PLANS TO CONQUER THE UNIVERSE!

ANWHILE, THE REAL CAPTAIN MARVEL HAS
EN OVER A LABORATORY WITH A PLAN OF
HIS OWN!

GENTLEMEN, I NEED YOUR
ORATORY FOR A FEW HOURS!
IS LIFE OR DEATH FOR THE
OLE UNIVERSE! AND I
ST WORK ALONE! IT'LL
BE DANGER-
OUS!

WE'LL TAKE
YOUR WORD FOR
IT, CAPTAIN
MARVEL! THE
PLACE IS YOURS!

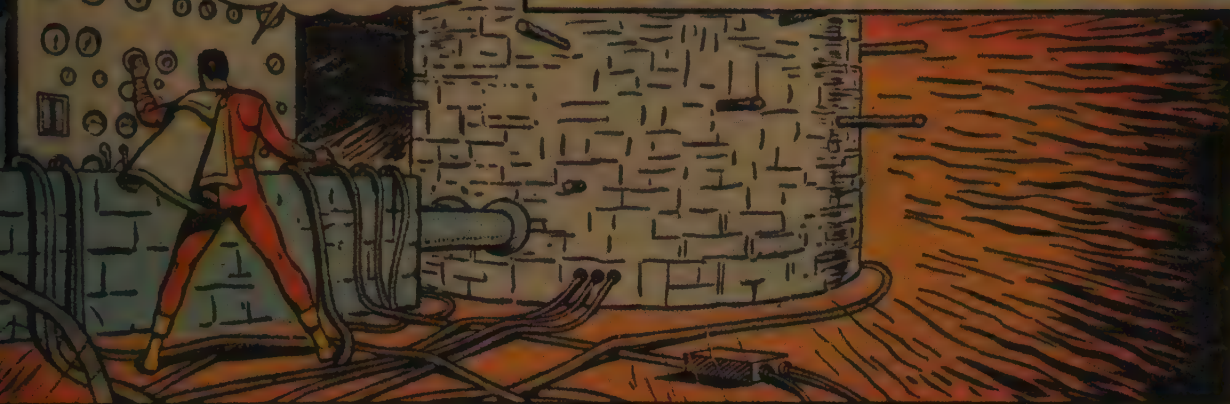


THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST
MORTAL BEGINS THE
WORLD'S GREATEST
SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENT,
USING FIRST THE
TITANIC POWERS OF
AN ATOM-SMASHING
CYCLOTRON!

I'M NOT USING
ANY SHIELDS OR
PROTECTION! WASTE
OF TIME! IF ANY OF
THOSE SCIENTISTS
WERE HERE NOW
THEY'D BE KILLED
ON THE SPOT!



NOW I NEED THE FULL POWER
AND ENERGY OF THIS ATOMIC PILE!
BUT I'M NOT MAKING
PLUTONIUM OR NEPTUNIUM,
SUCH AS IS USED IN
ATOMIC BOMBS!

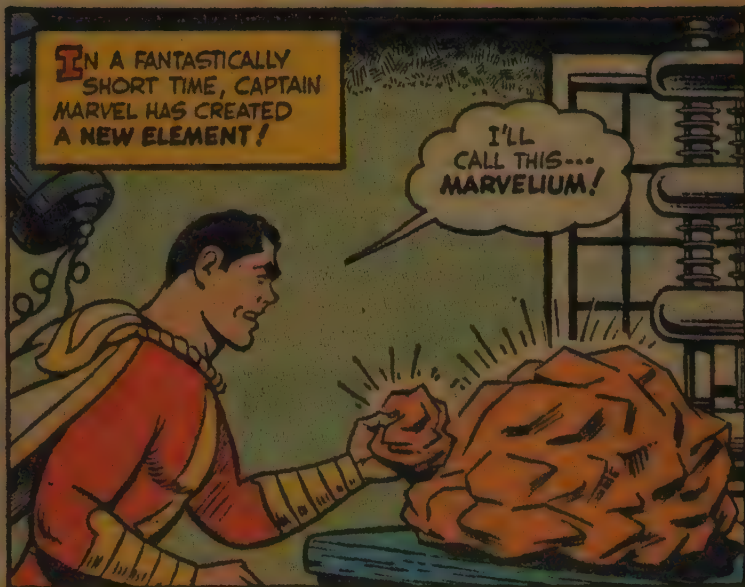


MECHANICAL BRAIN
MACHINE WILL HELP ME IN
NEXT STEP... HMMM...
I NEED A HYPER-
CURVE IN
THE FOURTH NEUTRONIC
STAGE, EH?



IN A FANTASTICALLY
SHORT TIME, CAPTAIN
MARVEL HAS CREATED
A NEW ELEMENT!

I'LL
CALL THIS...
MARVELIUM!



SCIENTISTS HAVE CREATED FOUR NEW ELEMENTS SO FAR ... SIVANA MADE SIVANIUM, THE BRACELET IS MADE OF SHA--THIS NEXT ELEMENT, AND NOW, LATEST OF ALL, IS MARVELIUM, THE HEAVIEST AND STRONGEST ELEMENT OF ALL!

NEW ELEMENTS	
no. 93	NEPTUNIUM
no. 94	PLUTONIUM
no. 95	AMERICIUM
no. 96	CURIUM
no. 97	SERBIUM
no. 98	SHAGORIUM
no. 99	MARVELIUM

IN FACT, IT'S THE WORLD INSIGHTIEST ELEMENT! THERE IS NO KNOWN FORCE IN THE UNIVERSE THAT CAN WORK IT--- EXCEPT ME! THAT'S WHY I'VE CALLED IT MARVELIUM!

IN A SHORT TIME CAPTAIN MARVEL BUILDS A MYSTERIOUS BOX OUT OF THE NEW ELEMENT, AND THEN PROCEEDS TO TEST IT WITH EVERY FORCE KNOWN TO HUMAN SCIENCE!

I'M CONVINCED THAT NOTHING CAN PENETRATE THAT MARVELIUM SHELL--- ABSOLUTELY NOTHING!

ZAP!

WHAT DOES CAPTAIN MARVEL PLAN TO DO WITH THIS AMAZING WONDER ELEMENT?

NOW TO STATION WHIZ WITH IT! HOW MUCH TIME HAVE I LEFT?

ONLY ONE HOUR! HOLY MOLEY! ONE HOUR TO CARRY OUT MY PLAN TO SAVE THE UNIVERSE! I'LL LEAVE THIS HERE AT STATION WHIZ!

TICK TICK TICK TICK TICK TICK

ONLY ONE HOUR REMAINS... ONE HOUR IN WHICH CAPTAIN MARVEL MUST DEFEAT SIVANA AND SAVE THE UNIVERSE! NOT ONLY THAT, BUT IT MEANS LIFE ITSELF TO CAPTAIN MARVEL! FOR IF THE SHAZANIUM BRACELET IS NOT RETURNED TO SHAZAM, THE WISE WIZARD WILL VANISH---AND WITH HIM WILL VANISH CAPTAIN MARVEL! IT IS A GRIM RACE AGAINST TIME NOW!

SIVANA IS UP ON THE ROCK OF ETERNITY! I'VE GOT TO PLAY HAND CAREFULLY AND LURE HIM BACK TO EARTH! BUT HOW? WAIT! I KNOW HOW! ALL I NEED ARE THE PROPER DISGUISE MATERIALS!

NEW
UTES
ER...

I'VE GOT THE
STUFF! NOW OFF
TO THE ROCK OF
ETERNITY!

BY EXCEEDING THE SPEED OF LIGHT,
ACCORDING TO THE EINSTEIN FORMULA,
CAPTAIN MARVEL IS FLUNG OUT OF
SPACE-TIME TO THE DISTANT ROCK
OF ETERNITY IN THE WINK OF AN EYE!

HEH,
HEH!

HEH,
HEH!

HEH,
HEH!

SIVANA AND
HIS DUPLICATES ARE
STILL PLOTTING! GOOD!
I'LL FLY INTO A COR-
NER OF THE
CASTLE!

PTAIN
RVEL!
AT ARE
OU
ING
RE?

O GREAT SIR, I'M SORRY,
BUT I THINK IT WAS A MISTAKE
FOR ME TO HELP SIVANA AS
YOU DIRECTED! NOW I'M
GOING TO WORK
AGAINST HIM!

SHAZAM!

MAGIC LIGHTNING
THUNDERS DOWN
AND RETURNS
CAPTAIN MARVEL TO
THE FORM OF
BILLY BATSON!

BOOM!

SIVANA DISGUISED HIMSELF
AS ME ONCE! NOW I'M
DISGUIISING MYSELF
AS HIM! WE'RE ABOUT
THE SAME SIZE!

NOTICED, DISGUISED BILLY JOINS THE MULTIPLE SIVANAS
IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM!

OUR
PLANS ARE
MADE! WE ARE READY
TO START CONQUERING
THE UNIVERSE!

HEH, HEH,
HEHHHH!

HEH, HEH,
HEHHHH!

HEH,
HEHHH!

HEH,
HEH!

HEH,
HEH!

I HOPE MY
CHUCKLE IS AS
NASTY AS IT
SHOULD BE!
BUT NOW...

WAIT, MASTER! DON'T YOU THINK YOU
OUGHT TO VISIT YOUR LAB ON EARTH
AGAIN, RIGHT NOW? MAYBE THAT
BIG RED CHEESE, CAPTAIN
MARVEL, IS UP TO SOME-
THING DESPERATE!

YOU'RE
RIGHT! WON'T
HURT TO CHECK
ON HIM!

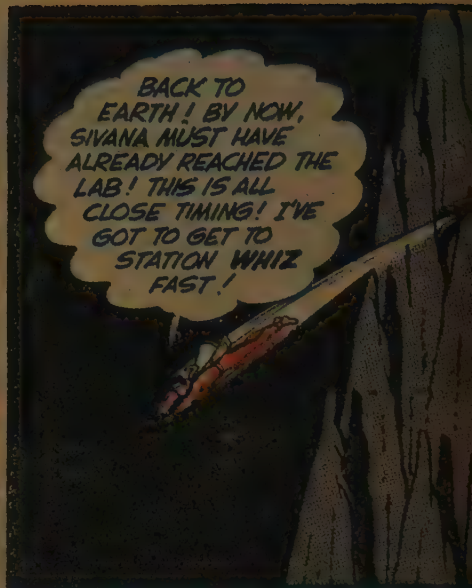


THAT FOOLED HIM! HE'LL RETURN TO EARTH, WHERE I WANT HIM!
NOW---
SHAZAM!

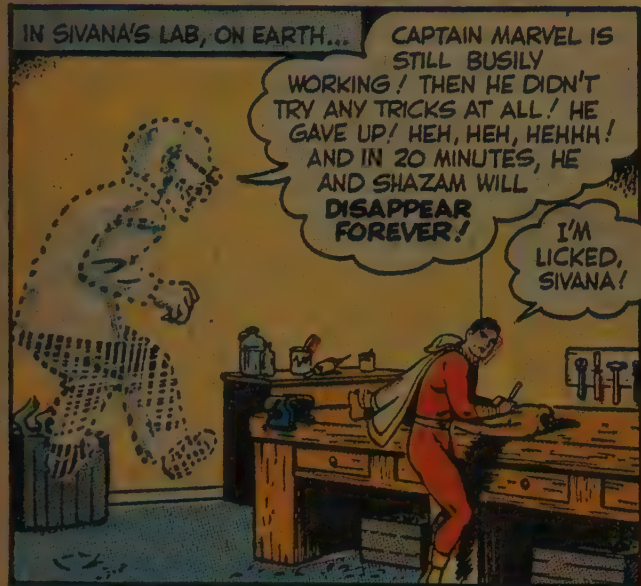
HURRY, MY SON!
I GROW WEAK! ONLY HALF AN HOUR REMAINS TO ME!



MAGIC LIGHTNING AGAIN BRINGS THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MAN!



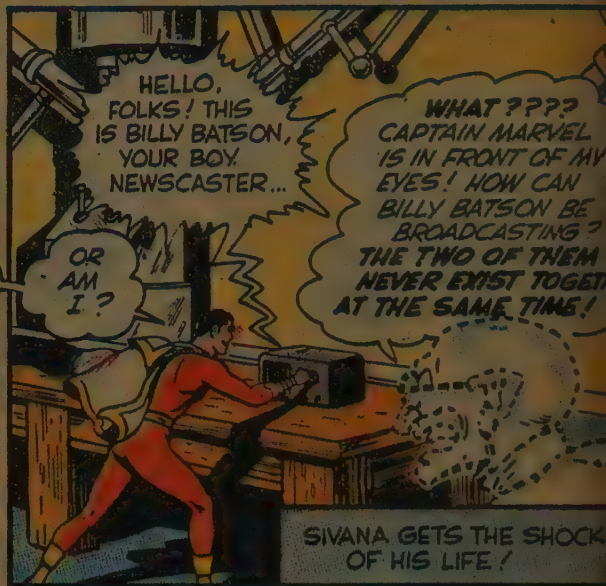
BACK TO EARTH! BY NOW, SIVANA MUST HAVE ALREADY REACHED THE LAB! THIS IS ALL CLOSE TIMING! I'VE GOT TO GET TO STATION WHIZ FAST!



IN SIVANA'S LAB, ON EARTH...

CAPTAIN MARVEL IS STILL BUSILY WORKING! THEN HE DIDN'T TRY ANY TRICKS AT ALL! HE GAVE UP! HEH, HEH, HEHHH! AND IN 20 MINUTES, HE AND SHAZAM WILL **DISAPPEAR FOREVER!**

I'M LICKED, SIVANA!



HELLO, FOLKS! THIS IS BILLY BATSON, YOUR BOY NEWSCASTER...

OR AM I?

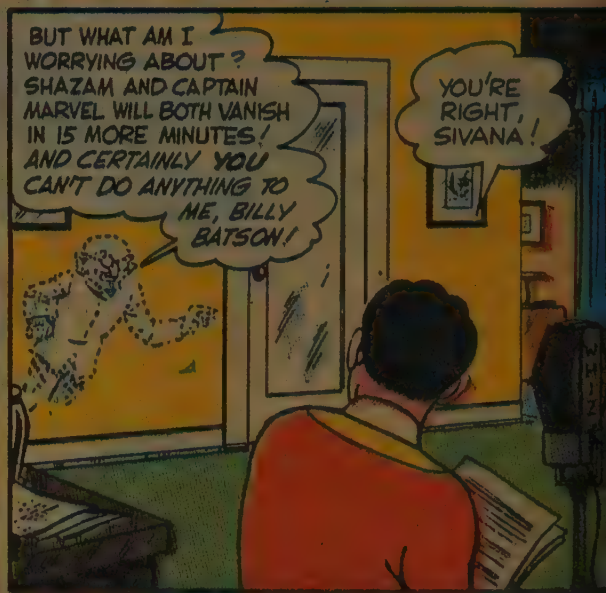
WHAT???? CAPTAIN MARVEL IS IN FRONT OF MY EYES! HOW CAN BILLY BATSON BE BROADCASTING? THE TWO OF THEM NEVER EXIST TOGETHER AT THE SAME TIME!

SIVANA GETS THE SHOCK OF HIS LIFE!



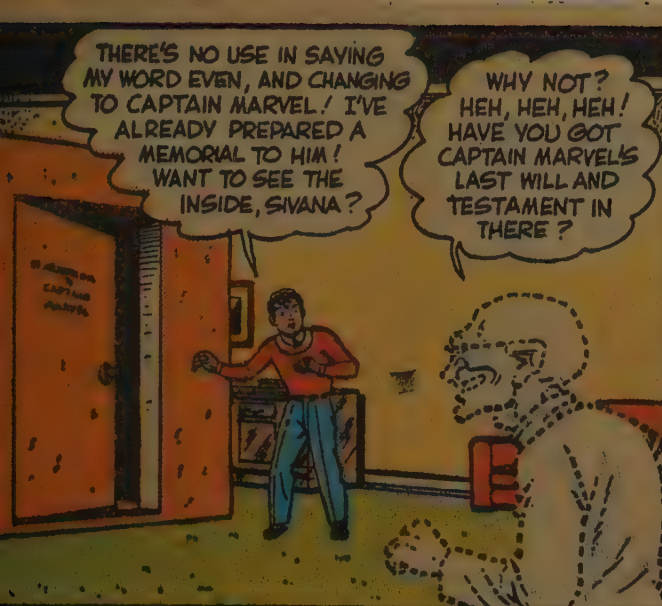
WE TRICKED YOU, SIVANA! I'M ONLY A **DUPLICATE CAPTAIN MARVEL!**

WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT? I'LL FIX THAT BILLY BATSON! I'LL GET HIM AT **STATION WHIZ!**



BUT WHAT AM I WORRYING ABOUT? SHAZAM AND CAPTAIN MARVEL WILL BOTH VANISH IN 15 MORE MINUTES! AND CERTAINLY **YOU** CAN'T DO ANYTHING TO ME, BILLY BATSON!

YOU'RE RIGHT, SIVANA!



THERE'S NO USE IN SAYING MY WORD EVEN, AND CHANGING TO CAPTAIN MARVEL! I'VE ALREADY PREPARED A MEMORIAL TO HIM! WANT TO SEE THE INSIDE, SIVANA?

WHY NOT? HEH, HEH, HEH! HAVE YOU GOT CAPTAIN MARVEL'S LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT IN THERE?



EMPTY! IS THIS SUPPOSED TO BE A TRAP? BUT YOU LITTLE FOOL, I CAN OOZE THROUGH WALLS--- DON'T YOU REMEMBER?

SHAZAM!



LY LEAVES THE DOOR OPEN A SLIGHT CRACK FOR THE MAGIC LIGHTING TO PENETRATE AND FREE HIM ONCE MORE CAPTAIN MARVEL!



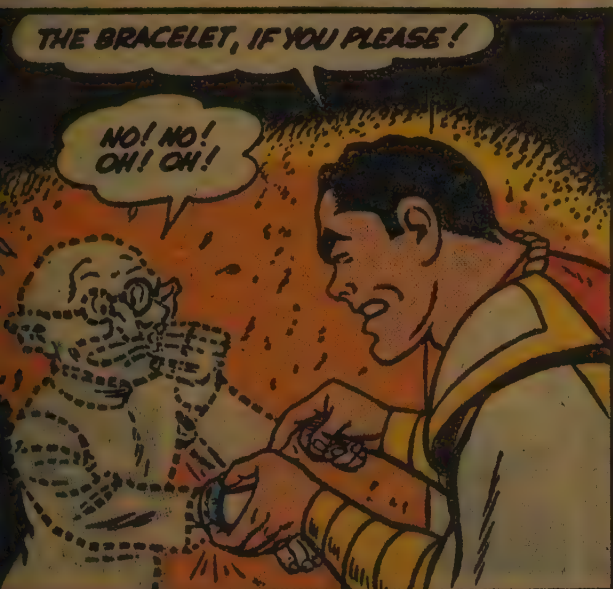
IDIOT! TRYING TO TRAP ME? I'LL JUST OOZE THROUGH THE WALL AND--- ULP!

NOT THROUGH THAT WALL! IT'S MADE OF MARVELIUM! NOTHING CAN PENETRATE IT!



LET ME OUT! **HELP!**

NO USE, SIVANA! NOW YOU CAN'T WHISK AWAY ON ME LIKE A GHOST! YOU'RE TRAPPED! I'LL TAKE THAT BRACELET NOW!



THE BRACELET, IF YOU PLEASE!

NO! NO! OH! OH!



WITHOUT THE BRACELET, YOU'RE SOLID AGAIN! OH BOY, WHAT JOY TO FEEL YOUR CHIN AGAIN!

BOA!



HOW TO GET THIS BRACELET TO THE WIZARD... HOLY MOLEY! ONLY A FEW SECONDS LEFT!



I'LL WEAR THE BRACELET MYSELF! IN ETHEREAL FORM I CAN WALK TO THE ROCK OF ETERNITY INSTANTLY!



CAPTAIN MARVEL ARRIVES AT THE VERY ZERO MOMENT!

FAREWELL, MY SON.....

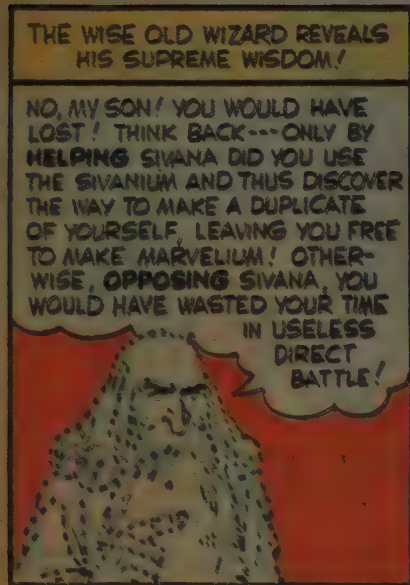
NO! I'VE GOT THE BRACELET! PUT IT ON! HURRY!



MY STRENGTH IS BACK! ALL IS WELL! WE HAVE WON!

YES, BUT WHEW!--- THAT WAS CLOSE! I WISH YOU HADN'T ADVISED ME TO HELP SIVANA FIRST, SIR! I WOULD HAVE DEFEATED HIM SOONER!

SHAZAM IS SAVED!



THE WISE OLD WIZARD REVEALS HIS SUPREME WISDOM!

NO, MY SON! YOU WOULD HAVE LOST! THINK BACK--- ONLY BY HELPING SIVANA DID YOU USE THE SIVANIUM AND THUS DISCOVER THE WAY TO MAKE A DUPLICATE OF YOURSELF, LEAVING YOU FREE TO MAKE MARVELIUM! OTHERWISE, OPPOSING SIVANA, YOU WOULD HAVE WASTED YOUR TIME IN USELESS DIRECT BATTLE!



FORGIVE ME, GREAT SIR! I SHOULD NEVER HAVE DOUBTED YOU FOR A MOMENT!

IT WAS SO WRITTEN--- AND SO IT CAME TO PASS!



BUT WAIT--- THOSE DUPLICATE SIVANAS! I MUST DESTROY THEM!

YOUR DUPLICATE ALSO CAME, AND IS TAKING CARE OF THAT, MY SON!



FAREWELL,
CAPTAIN MARVEL!

THE UNIVERSE
IS SAFE AGAIN!
NOW TO FINISH
MY JOB BACK
ON EARTH BY
PUTTING
SIVANA
BEHIND
BARS!

OKS, THIS IS ISSUE NUMBER 100 OF **CAPTAIN MARVEL
ADVENTURES**! I WANT TO THANK ALL YOU READERS FOR
SUCH LOYAL FANS THROUGH 100 ISSUES! AND WE
PROMISE YOU MANY MORE EXCITING ADVENTURES AND
THRILLS IN THE **NEXT 100**

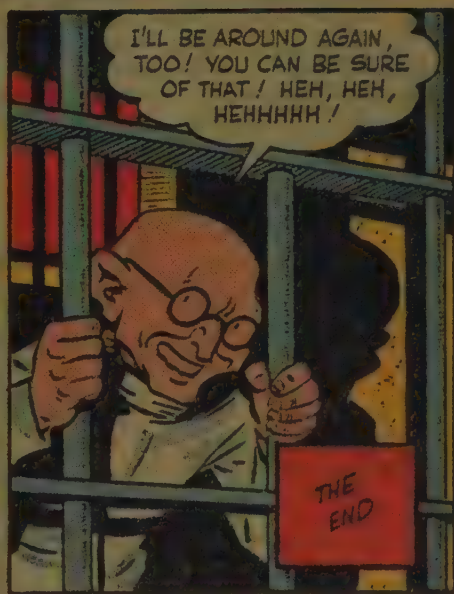
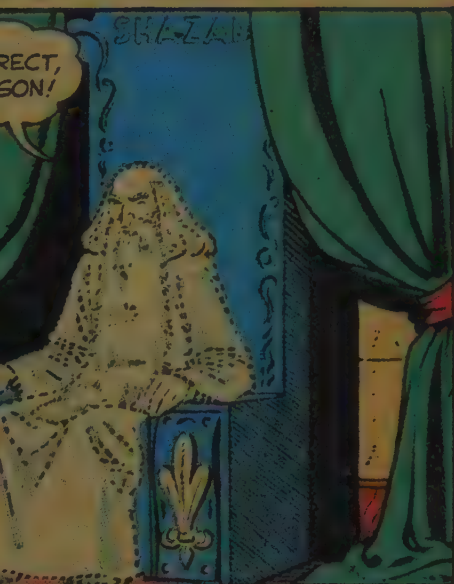
CORRECT,
MY SON!

YOU SAID IT,
CAPTAIN
MARVEL!

ISSUES! RIGHT,
GREAT SIR AND
MR. TAWNY?



THOSE ARE
MY SENTIMENTS
TOO, FOLKS! BE
SEEING YOU!



THE
END

About Basil Wolverton

Powerhouse Pepper was the work of Basil Wolverton, who also produced one of the best known and most widely distributed caricatures ever drawn by an American. Only a few of the millions who saw that drawing bothered to retain its artist's name, however, and fewer still learned much about his other work. Finally, although Wolverton has a high reputation among the aficionados of the comic book, he produced at least two kinds of features, and thus his admirers have trouble deciding which represented the best Wolverton, or the "real" Wolverton.

Basil Wolverton (1909-1978) was born in the Oregon town of Central Point. With no formal art training, he sold his first cartoon to *America's Humor* in 1926. He was long established as a newspaper artist in the Northwest by the time he started contributing to comic books in 1938. His first regular feature was *Spacehawk*, an interplanetary adventure with a far-larger-than-life hero, begun in *Target* comics in mid-1940. *Spacehawk's* adventures were often brutal and violent, and (not uniquely) they tended to equate retribution with justice.

Wolverton's depictions of realistic figures in *Spacehawk* and his other space fantasies were often stiff and posturing, and his panels occasionally cramped. But his grasp of depth and perspective was almost uncanny, and resulted in one of the most compelling visual fantasies ever seen in the comics idiom. Indeed, Wolverton's 1940s drawings of space-suited figures, adrift, attached umbilically to their motherships, craftily predict the realities of the space shots of the 1960s and 1970s.

Wolverton's most famous cartoon, mentioned earlier, appeared on a cover of *Life* in 1946. It came about as the result of a contest held by United Features Syndicate for the best depiction of a character alluded to but never seen in Al Capp's *Li'l Abner*, Lena the Hyena, "Lower Slobbovia's ugliest woman." Wolverton won with a drawing that managed to be ingeniously hideous and compellingly gleeful all at once. The drawing more or less established Wolverton as a master of comic grotesques and he contributed more of them to *Mad* in the 1950s and to the short-lived *Plop!* in the 1970s.

Beginning in 1942, meanwhile, Wolverton had contributed *Powerhouse Pepper*, an example of which we have chosen for inclusion here. *Powerhouse Pepper* was conceived, somewhat along the lines of Popeye or Alley Oop, as a relatively innocent comic hero who could outpunch anyone who pushed him too far. His adventures frequently involved him in the kind of broad burlesque of standard plots and situations depicted here.

In these explosive, low-comic stories, Wolverton's talent for grotesques was always there but always latent. His comparative ease with cartoon figures of keenly exaggerated anatomy, Wolverton's engaging silliness, his sight-gag ornamentation of his silliness in his drawings, his elementary energy in depicting comic attitudes—all of these resources thrived in *Powerhouse Pepper*. In addition, he sprinkled his *Powerhouse* dialogue with engaging doggerel rhymes and alliterations.

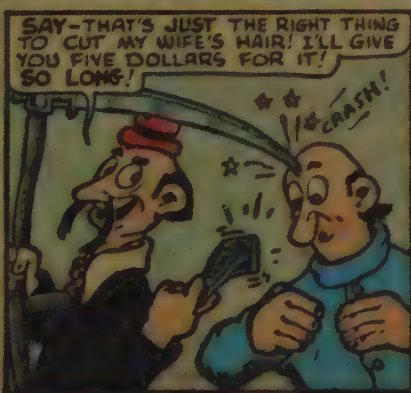
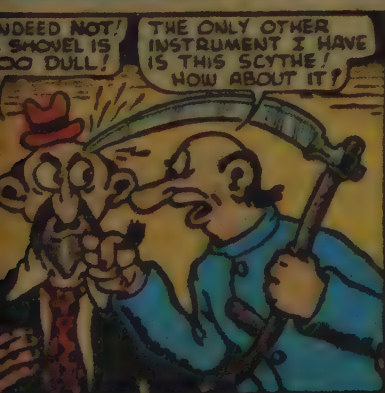
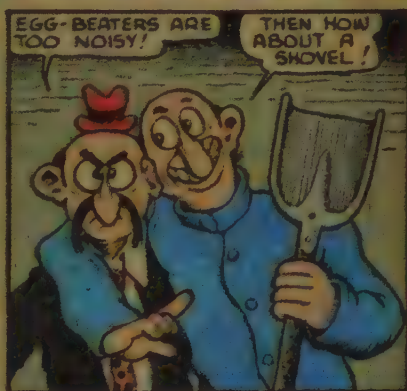
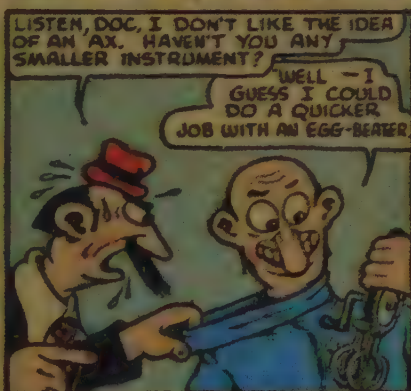
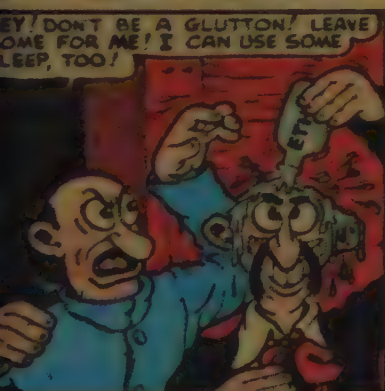
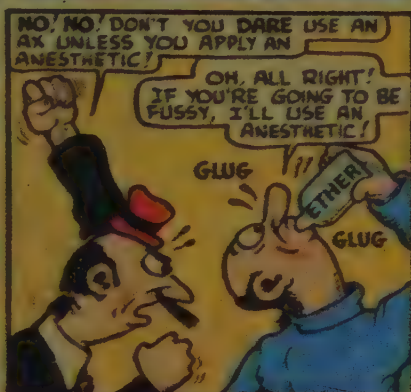
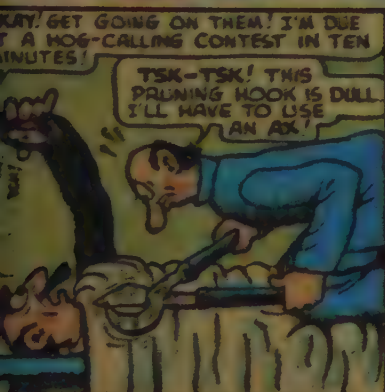
The feature lasted nearly a decade after *Powerhouse's* initial appearance in *Joker Comics*, and there were five intermittent issues of a *Powerhouse Pepper* comic book as well.

M.W.



DR. DIMWIT

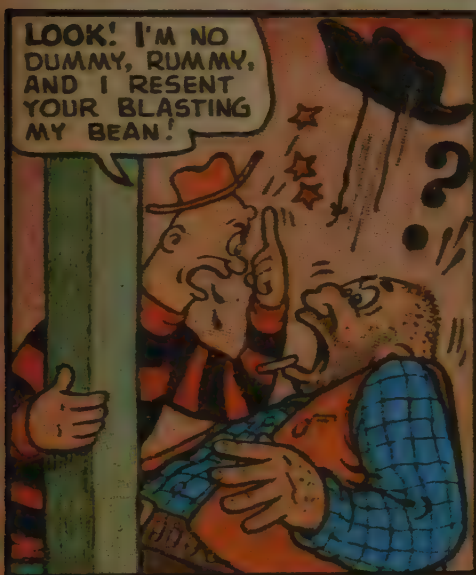
by
BASIL
WOLVERTON

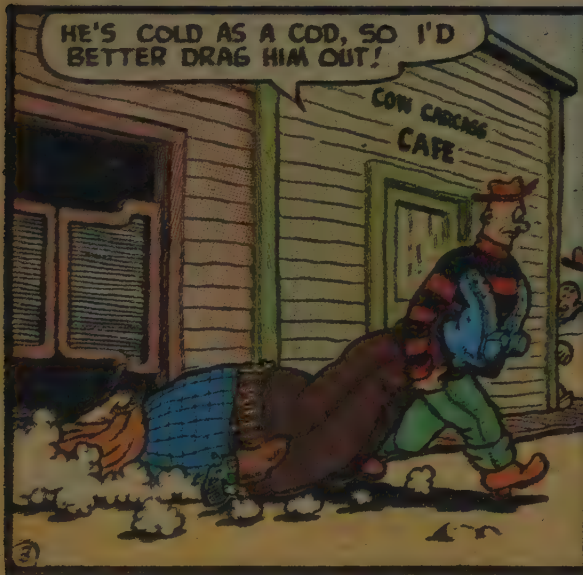
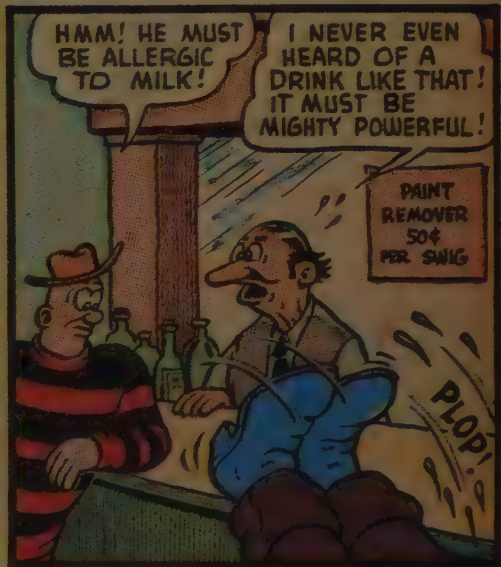
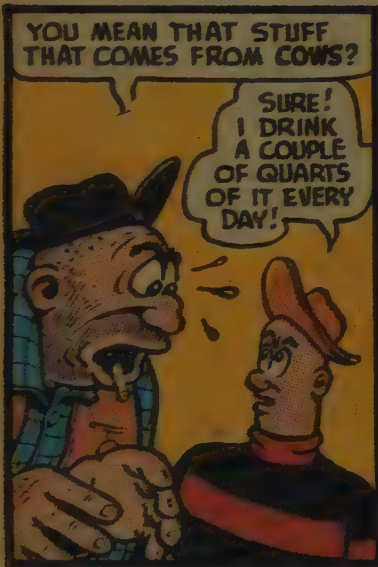


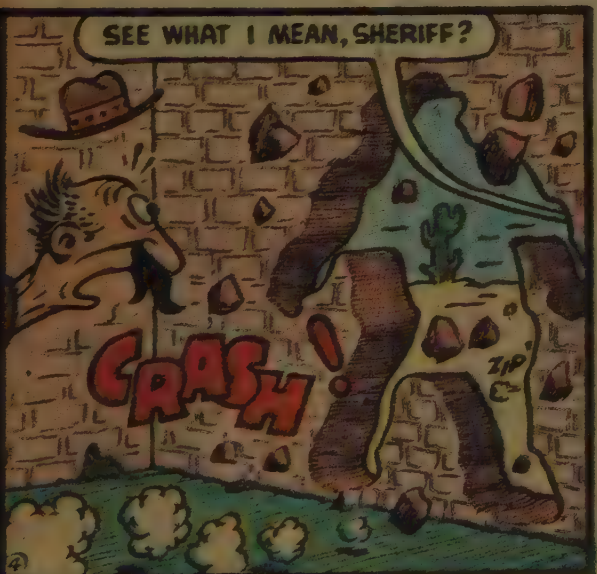
POWERHOUSE PEPPER

by
BASIL
BLASTBEAM
WOLVERTON

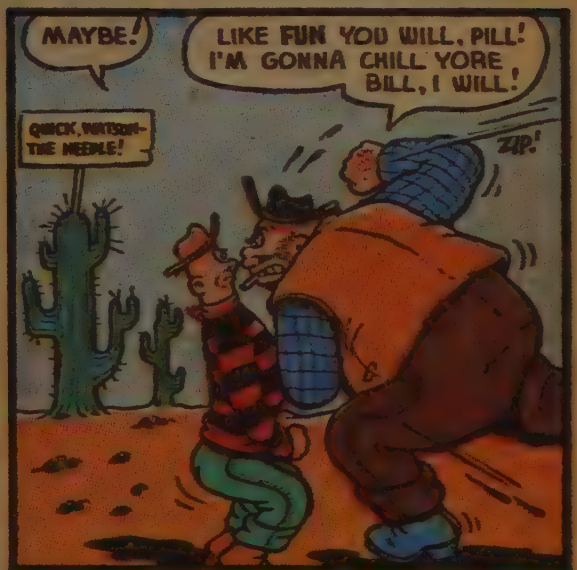
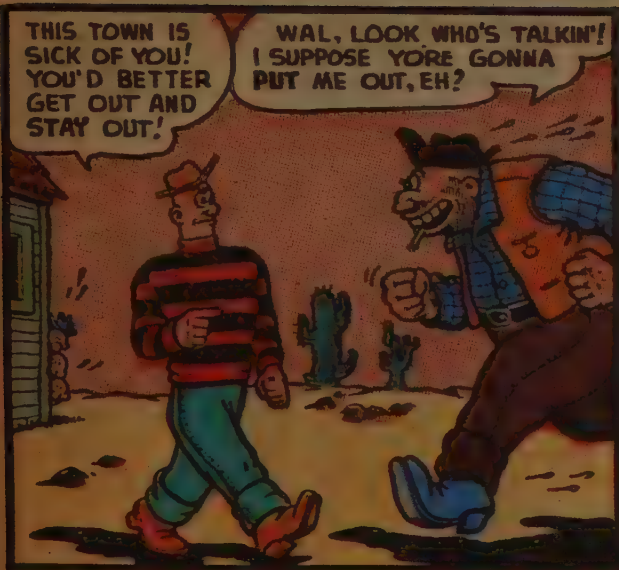


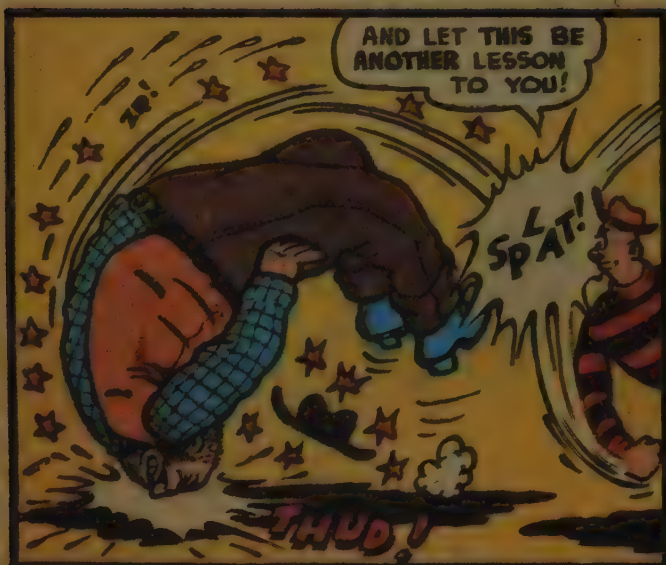


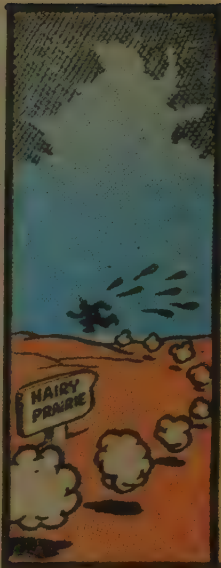












About George Carlson

The first thing that strikes one about George Carlson is the uniqueness of his drawing style, all curves and circles and flow, all boldness in its comic figures. The second is his swirling ingenuity in designing and filling the individual comic-book page. And the third, which comes as one begins to read him, is the apparently absolute sureness Carlson has in what he is doing—whatever that may turn out to be.

In 1970, Harlan Ellison (science-fiction author, screen-writer) offered an appreciation of Carlson's work as a "comic of the absurd," and in the course of his essay he invoked most of those modern writers whose work is apt to involve and move us before we are quite sure what they are up to—Pirandello, Kafka, Genêt, Beckett, Pinter, Ionesco.

Ellison was writing in the anthology *All in Color for a Dime*, and both his subject and his approach must have come as a surprise to the book's readers and some of its other contributors, preoccupied as most of them evidently were with the *sock-baram-powie-shoosh* of the super-heroes. Ellison's awe, his enthusiasm, and his careful recounting of one of Carlson's best strip episodes could, of course, have been no substitute for the real thing, and most of the book's readers probably had not seen the real thing.

George Carlson (1887-1962) came to comics rather late in a long and varied career. In the 1930s and 1940s he was a prolific illustrator of popular children's books, chiefly for the Platt and Munk company (he illustrated eight collections of Uncle Wiggily stories). He also did the illustration for the original dust jacket for *Gone With the Wind*, and he was puzzle editor for the *National Girl Scouts Magazine* (that later aspect of his career was revived for the short-lived *Puzzle Fun Comics*).

Between the February 1942 and December 1949 issues, the full life of *Jingle Jangle Comics*, George Carlson worked on that magazine. He contributed the plotting and drawing to one *Jingle Jangle Tale* and one adventure of *The Pie-Face Prince of Pretzelburg*, Dimwitri by name, in almost every issue.

Jingle Jangle Comics, like its contemporary *Animal Comics* (and like our contemporary *Casper the Friendly Ghost*), was a comic book intended for small children, and I expect that the virtues of Carlson's work will not occur to us unless we remember that fact. Carlson's wonderful silliness and follow-your-nose whimsy functioned best when it was uninhibited by any demands of a well-rounded plot (which he did occasionally set for himself). Like another American tale-spinner/illustrator for small children, Johnny Gruelle, the creator of Raggedy Ann, Carlson functioned best when he improvised—that is, free-associated—incident upon

incident to an ending, rather in the manner of small children playing an adventure game among themselves, and making it up as they go along.

All of which leads me here to invoke another name. Enough of litterateurs and playwrights of the absurd. George Carlson was a kind of George Herriman for little children, and the achievement of his work in *Jingle Jangle Comics* is like Herriman's *Krazy Kat*, but on the level of a small child.

I realize that this is praise indeed. And if it is valid praise, then surely what is called for next is a book collection of Carlson's best comics work—a book all to himself.

M.W.

JINGLE JANGLE TALES

by George Carlson

The FASHIONABLE FIREMAN
and the SOFT-BOILED COLLAR-BUTTON

ONCE UPON
A TIME
THERE WAS
A FASHIONABLE
FIREMAN, WHO,
HAVING LOST HIS
APPETITE IN THE
WARS, RETURNED
HOME WITH A YARD
OF FINE BUNS —

I HOPE THOSE
BUNS OF YOURS
ARE FLAVORED
WITH STEAM!

YEAH—!
I MARKED 'EM
ALL ABSENT EXCEPT
THE LAST VERSE!

TO THE
WARS

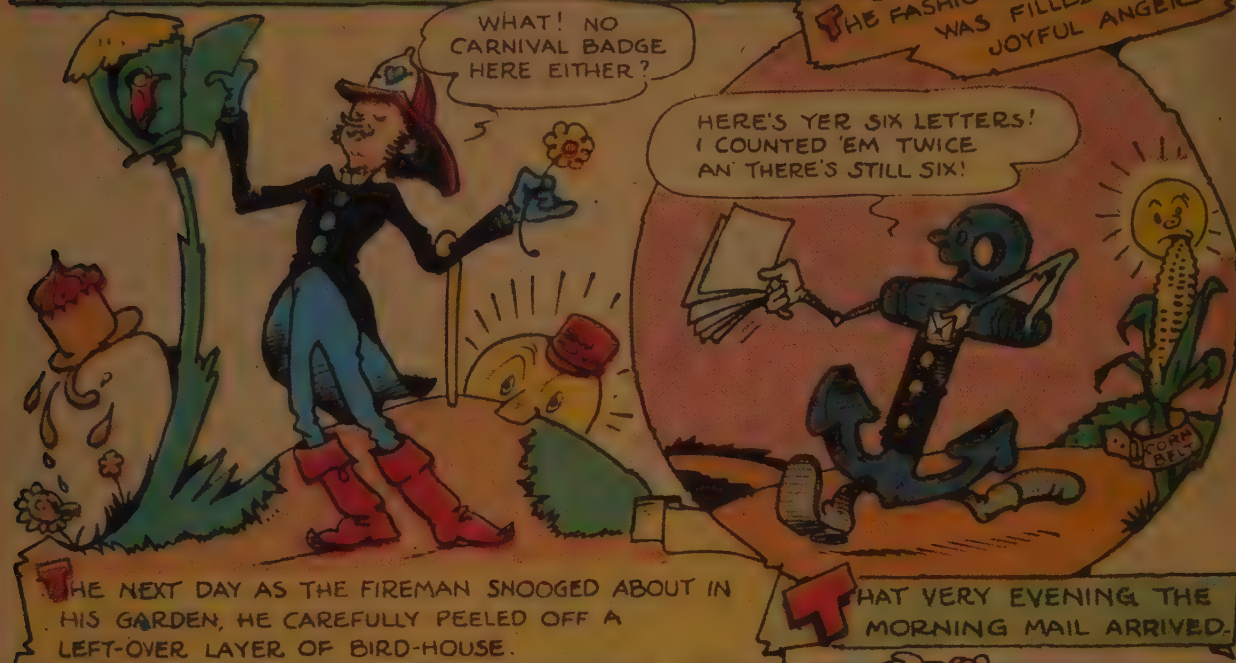
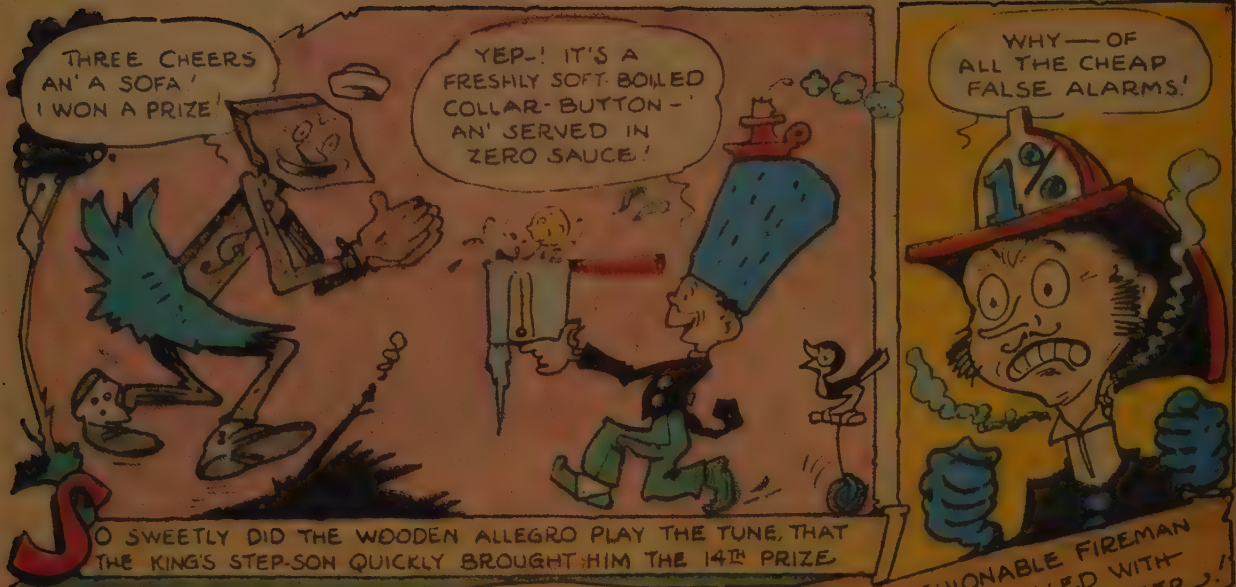
NOW ~ IF I COULD
ONLY FIND THAT
CARNIVAL BADGE!

I CAN PLAY
MUCH WORSE THAN THIS
BUT I FORGOT HOW!

ONE DAY, JUST AS HE WAS ABOUT TO FORGET TO
SING, HE MET A LARGE GRAB-BAG LINED WITH
TAFFY AND PARTLY PUSHED BY THE KING'S STEP-SON

ALL OF WHICH WAS VERY FINE, BUT HE WANTED HIS
MISSING CARNIVAL BADGE, SO A VERY WOODEN ALLEGRO
OBLIGED HIM WITH THE RIGHT KEY, BUT IT WAS OF NO HELP—

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE



CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

REAL
GRADE K
STUFF!

DETOUR

DETOUR

HUM
SWEET
HUM

DETOUR

TO THE STIRRING TUNE
OF "WE'LL MEETCHA AT
THE COFFEE GROUNDS,"
HE STARTED OFF —

WITH HIM WERE SOME
SEVEN-INCH DETOURS
WHO BORE A QUART OF
MOIST MOONLIGHT —

HAPPY
NEW YEAR

DETOUR

DETOUR

AT EXACTLY TWO-FOOT-SIX P.M.
THEY CAME TO A RATHER
CROSS ROAD

AND

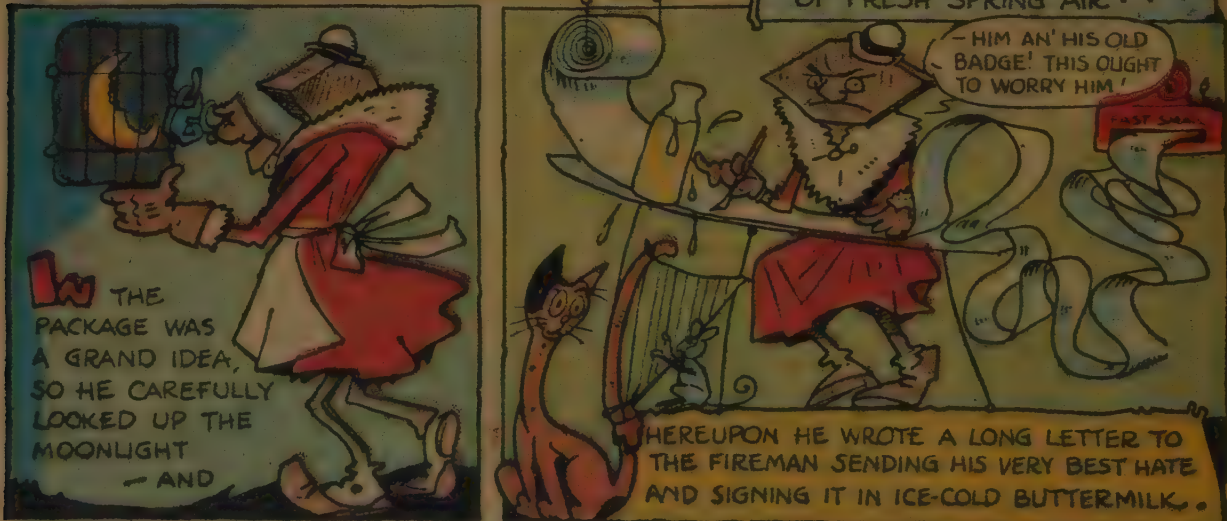
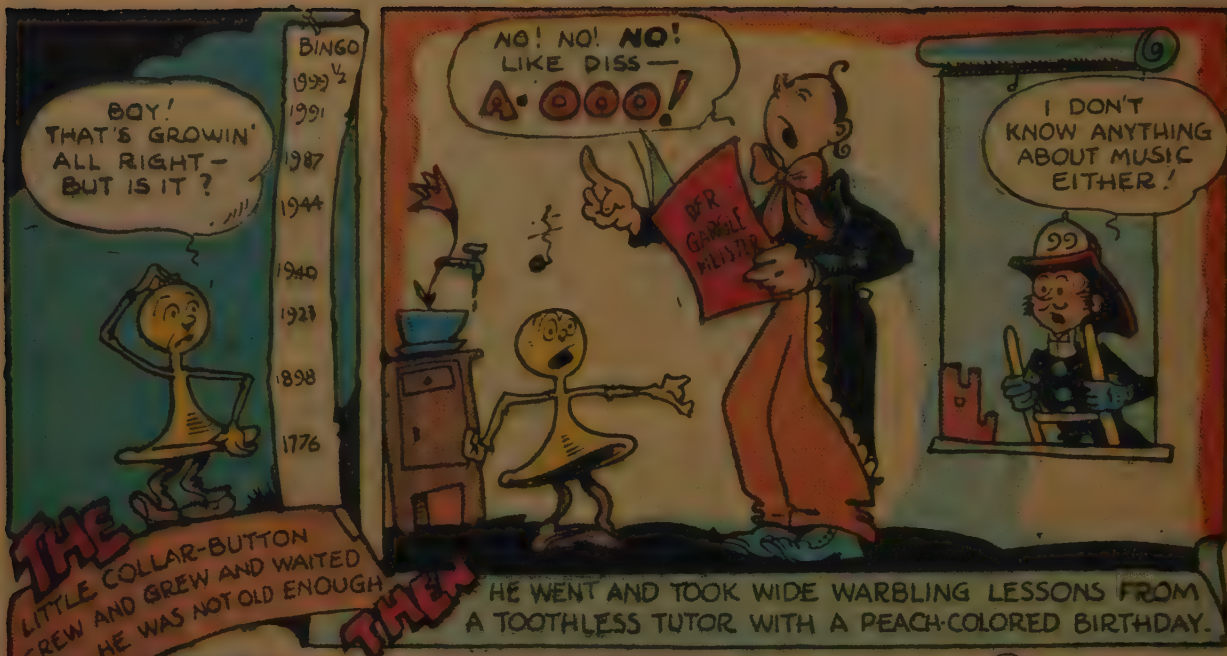
WHEN THEY
REACHED THE NEXT
VERSE THE MOONLIGHT
EXPLODED WITH GREETINGS
AND BEST WISHES. ONE OF
THESE HIT THE FASHIONABLE
FIREMAN IN THE EARLY PART
OF THE FORENOON AND SO
THE PARADE WAS
CLOSED FOR
REPAIRS

NOW, LET'S SEE---
I WAS LOOKING FOR A
BADGE, I BELIEVE!

NOT UNTIL ON A VERY
TUESDAY DAWN DID THE
FIREMAN KNOW WHERE
HE WAS. FAINTLY HE SAW
THE SOFT-BOILED
COLLAR-BUTTON
ALSO ROCKING ITSELF
AWAKE IN A TINY
SOUP-FOOTED CRADLE.

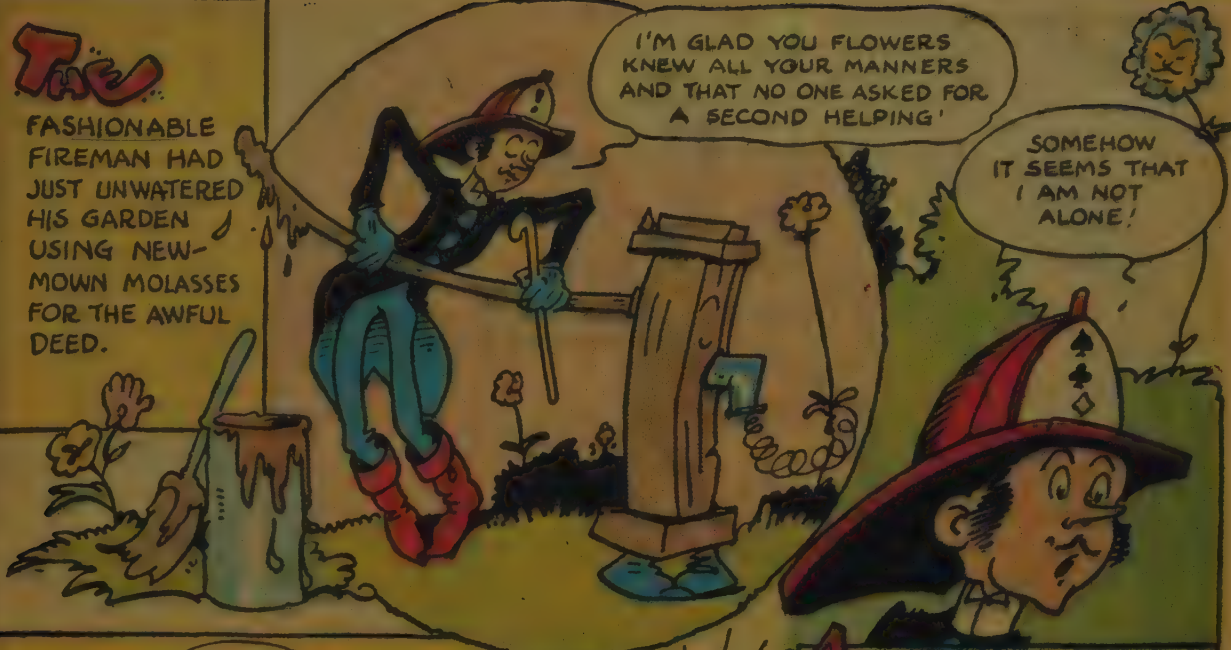
YOO
HOO!

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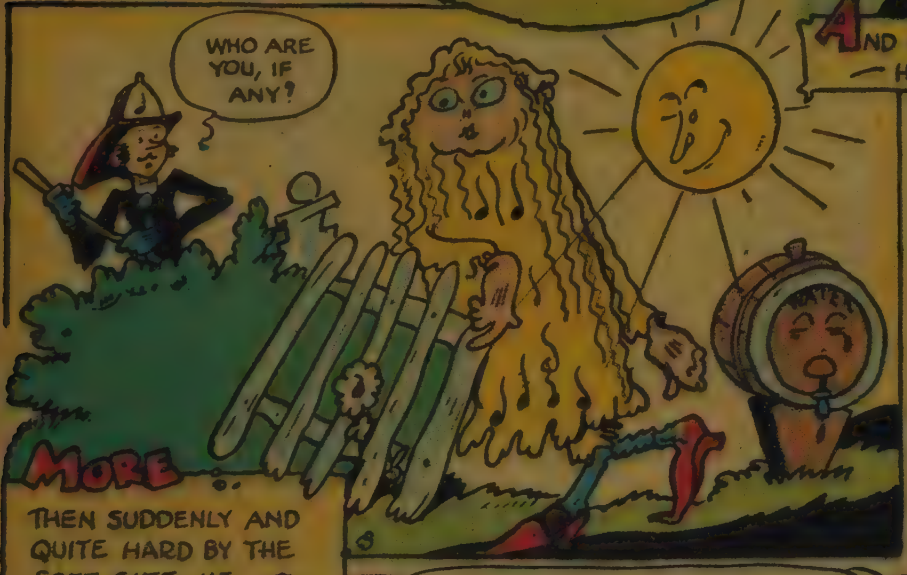
The

FASHIONABLE
FIREMAN HAD
JUST UNWATERED
HIS GARDEN
USING NEW-
MOWN MOLASSES
FOR THE AWFUL
DEED.



WHO ARE
YOU, IF
ANY?

AND FOR ONCE HE WAS RIGHT!
— HE WAS NOT ALONE!



MORE

THEN SUDDENLY AND
QUITE HARD BY THE
SOFT GATE, HE
SPIED A LOVELY
BLOND MAZURKA!
SHE WAS ODDLY
DRENCHED WITH NEW
SUNLIGHT AND SAID
NOTHING IN A LOUD
VOICE.

OF COURSE HE GAVE
HER THE BEST WRONG
DIRECTION, ~ LITTLE
DID HE KNOW THAT
HERE AT LAST WAS
THE SECRET ABOUT
THE MISSING BADGE

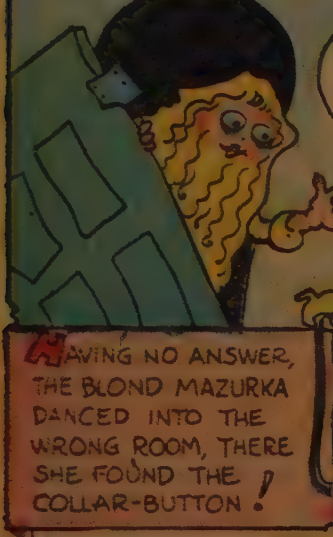
WELCOME! TAKE THE TURN TO
THE LEFT AND ASK A POLICEMAN!





JUST FOR THAT HE INVITED THE BLOND MAZURKA TO TEA. THE INVITATION WAS SENT IN NEXT YEAR'S MAIL.

A LOVELY FEAST WAS SPREAD ON A NEW TIME-TABLE SO THEY WAITED FOR RAIN AND MULTIPLIED IT BY SIX.



HAVING NO ANSWER, THE BLOND MAZURKA DANCED INTO THE WRONG ROOM, THERE SHE FOUND THE COLLAR-BUTTON!

TAKING A LONG SHORT-CUT, THEY DASHED MADLY OUT, - WELL, THEY DASHED OUT ANYWAY -



AT THIS ALMOST MOMENT, THE FASHIONABLE FIREMAN WAS MAKING MUCH MORE TEA - JUST AS HE HAD EXACTLY 47½ GALLONS, HE MADE A GREAT DISCOVERY!

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

I'LL SEE
NOW IF I CAN GET
THAT MAZURKA
TO TALK!



PEEDING MERRILY OUT
HE ADDED IT ALL GENTLY
UP IN TOPS AND MARBLES

VERY PRETTY-!
NOW LEMME HEAR
YOUR SEWING LESSON!

YAH HOO!



HERE IN HIS FRONT BACK-YARD HE FOUND THE
BLOND MAZURKA THREADING SOAP BUBBLES WHILE
THE SOFT-BOILED COLLAR-BUTTON SANG ALMOST SWEETLY.

THE

BLOND MAZURKA
SAW HIM! IN A
SLOW HURRY SHE
TORE OFF THE
SUN-DRENCHED
WIG AND THERE
BEFORE THE
FIREMAN COULD SAY
"ROCK JABINSON",
—STOOD THE
WOODEN ALLEGRO!



AHA! BIG BOY-!
I PULLED A FAST
ONE ON YUH THEN!



YOU THOUGHT
I WANTED TO
KIDNAP HIM —
WELL, I DIDN'T!
HE JUST NOW
SLIPPED ME
YOUR CARNIVAL
BADGE!



WHAT!



AND SO THE FASHIONABLE FIREMAN LEARNED THE GLAD BUT AWFUL TRUTH —

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE



SIX

MORE OR LESS WEEKS PASSED. THIS CAME ON A MONDAY SO THE FASHIONABLE FIREMAN BEGAN TO WEAR HIS BADGE UNTIL THE CREAM COLOR TURNED TO GRADE. THEN HE INVITED THE WOODEN ALLEGRO TO TEA, THIS TIME WITHOUT STARCH.

I STILL WANT TO GET RID OF THIS AND I AM STILL GLAD YOU CAME!



多美多美 (MEANING MORE SHMALTZ!)



BUT THE FASHIONABLE FIREMAN NEVER HEARD FROM HIM AGAIN - SO, TO THIS DAY HE WEARS HIS CREAM-COLORED CARNIVAL BADGE TO ALL THE FASHIONABLE FIRES.

DAISIES WON'T TELL

THE END

THE PIE-FACE PRINCE OF PRETZLEBURG

IT WAS A BIG DAY IN OLD PRETZLEBURG. KING HOKUM WAS REVIEWING THE GRAND ANNUAL WEEKLY PARADE OF THE ROYAL HAT-BAND WHEN TO HIS HORROR HE DISCOVERED THAT THEIR BIG BASS DRUM WAS MISSING!

INSTANTLY



ALL PRETZLEBURG SEARCHED HIGH AND LOW - EVEN LIBERAL REWARDS (LIBERAL FOR PRETZLEBURG) WERE OFFERED.



EVEN I CAN'T FIND IT - AND THAT'S BAD!



WELL, HERE'S WHERE I GO UP IN MY 10-CENT 18-KARAT BALLOON - I'LL GET A BROAD VIEW OF THE WHOLE THING!

WAS IN VAIN - FOR THE BIG DRUM WAS COMPLETELY GONE! SO IT WAS UP TO DIMWITRI, THE PIE-FACE PRINCE TO FIND THAT DRUM - AND FIND IT SOON

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

JUST

AS THE PRINCE WAS ABOUT TO
STEP INTO HIS 10-CENT BALLOON
A STRANGER RUSHED IN

CAN IT BE
NEWS ABOUT
THE DRUM?

BOSS- HERE'S YOUR CHANCE
TO BUY A CHEAP FREE TICKET
TO A GOOD FIRE!

GOOD NEWS INDEED, BUT
OH SO DIFFERENT!

AN' I DIDN'T GET
A CHANCE TO
SEE THAT FIRE!

HE'LL SEE
PLENTY!

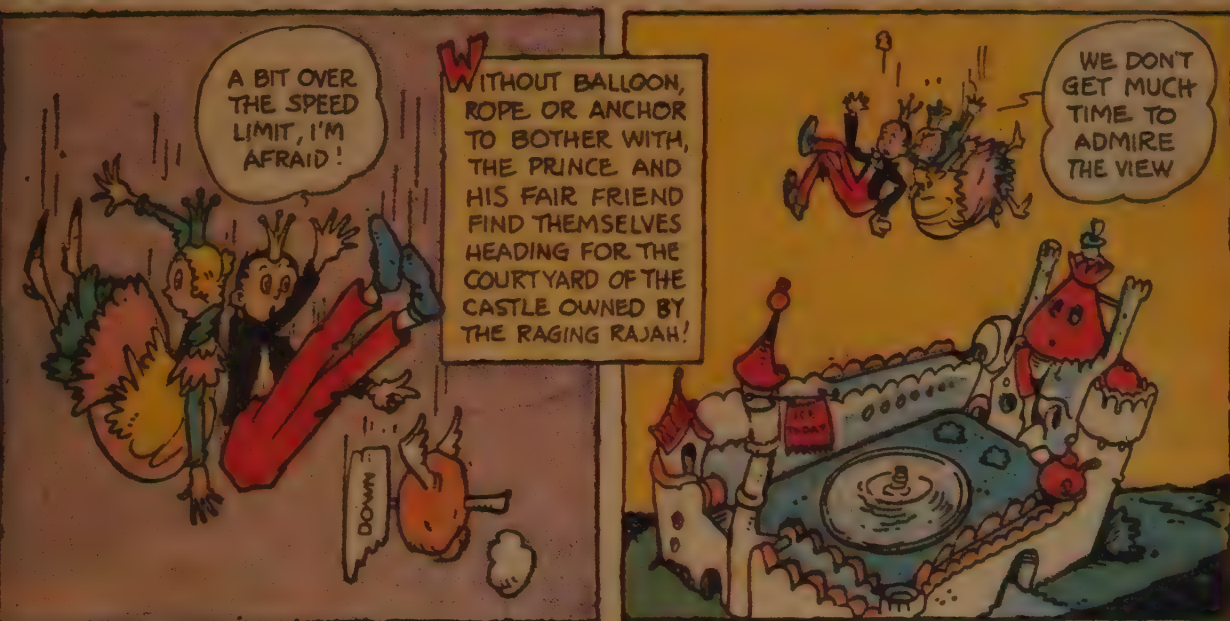
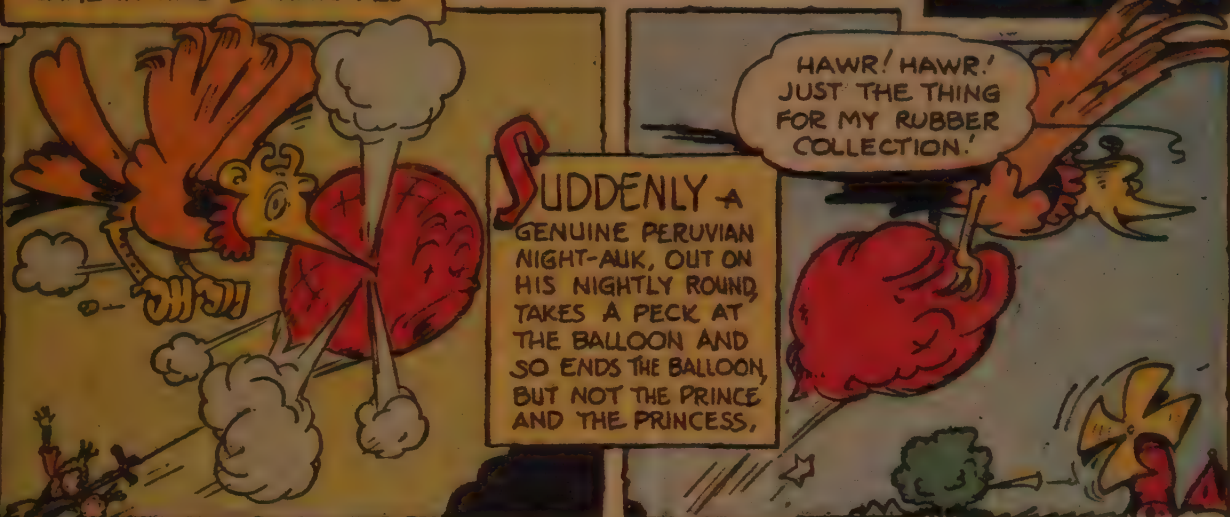
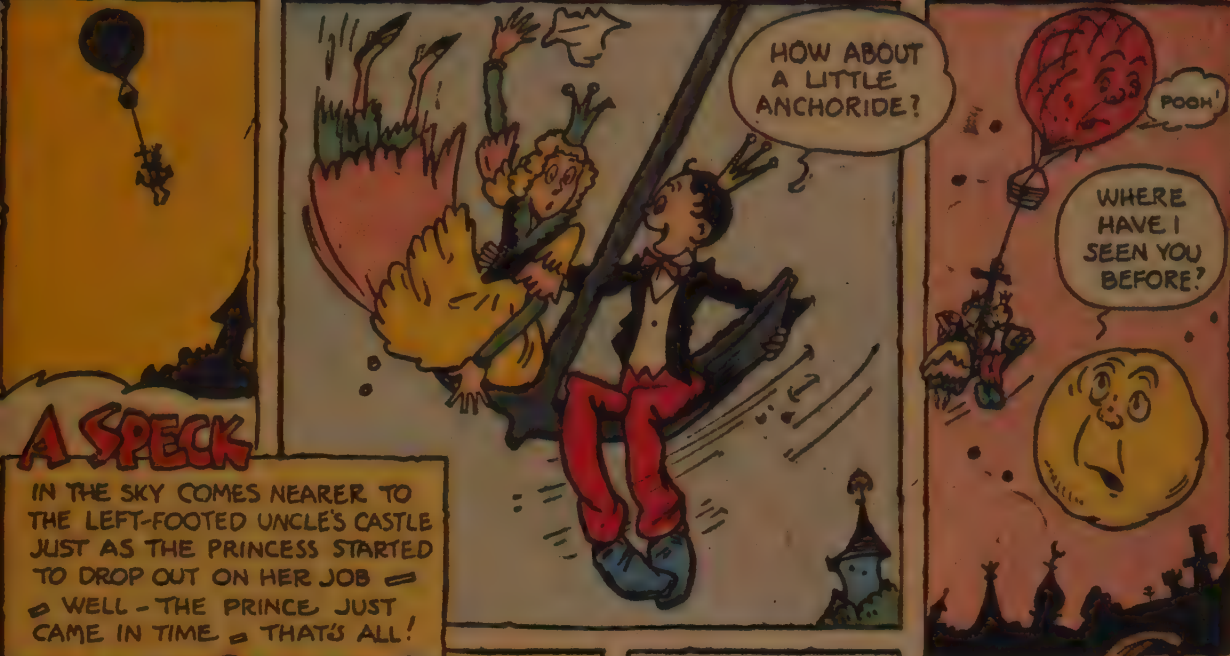
BECAUSE OF THIS
THE BALLOON GOT
OFF ON A GOOD
HEAD-START WITH
THE PRINCE NICELY
HOOKED ON THE
FEATHER-WEIGHT
ANCHOR- GOING UP-UP-UP

IT'S HIGH TIME
THESE LOW-DOWN
WINDOWS WERE WASHED
UP OR DOWN -
AN' I'M THE DAME
TO DO IT!

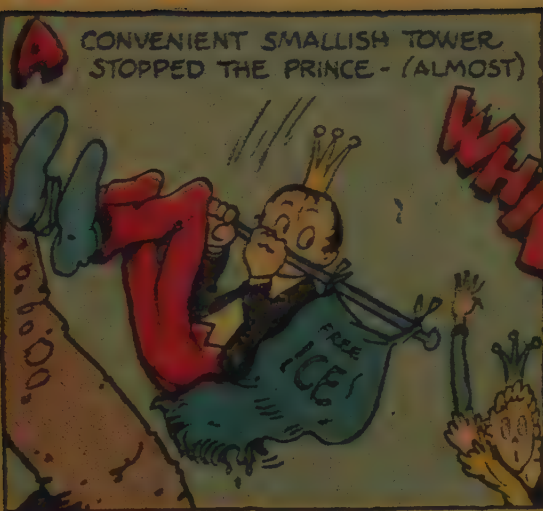
THIS ONE IS
MY FAVORITE
PANE!

AT THAT ALMOST MOMENT PRINCESS PANETELLA MURPHY
WAS WASHING THE NINETY-FIRST FLOOR WINDOW IN
HER LEFT-FOOTED UNCLE'S SECOND-BEST CASTLE.

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CONTINUED NEXT PAGE



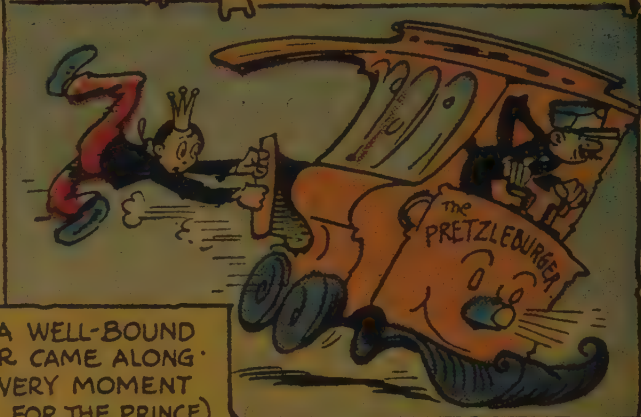
WHILE



THE PRINCESS LANDED IN THE FOUNTAIN POOL WITH NOT ONLY A SPLASH BUT ALSO A BOOM.



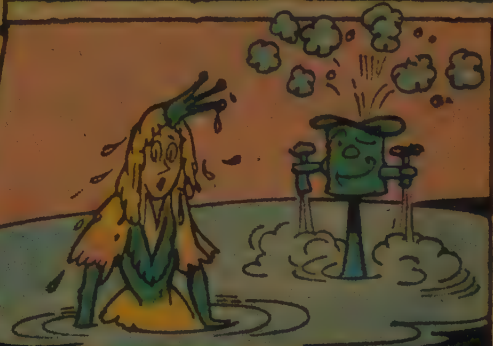
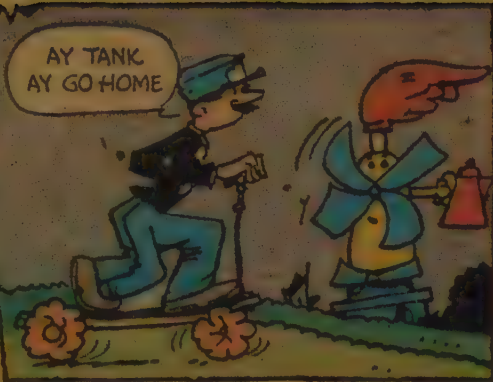
THE CASTLE GUARDS GOT RIGHT ON THE JOB...



AND THE PRINCE NOT ONLY BECAME PASSENGER, BUT IT'S OWNER!

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

THE NEW OWNER-DRIVER OF THE PRETZLEBURG JOLLY-CAR, THE PIE-FACE PRINCE, THEN QUICKLY HEADED IT IN ANOTHER DIRECTION..

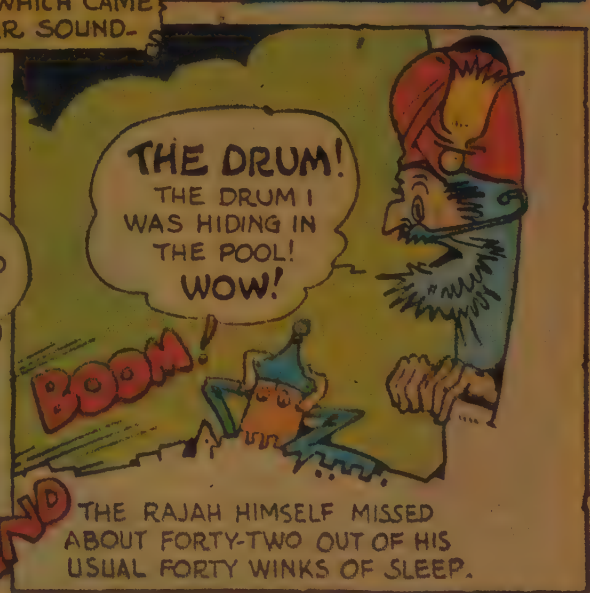
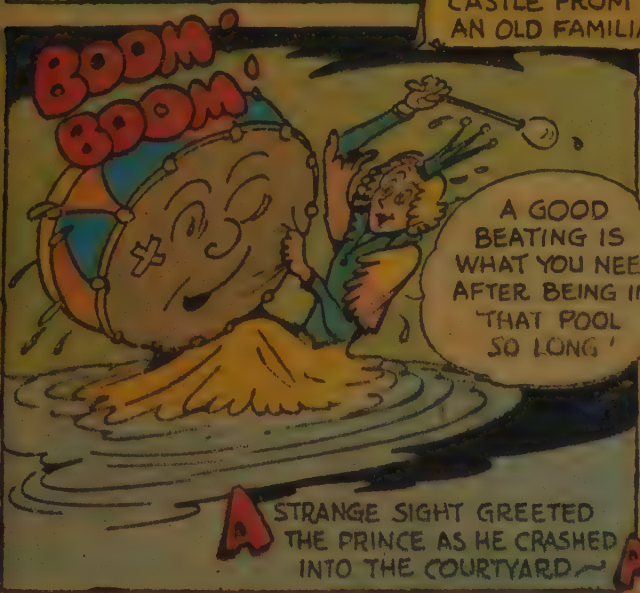


AS

FOR THE PRINCESS, — SHE LANDED SAFELY, BUT OH SO WET!



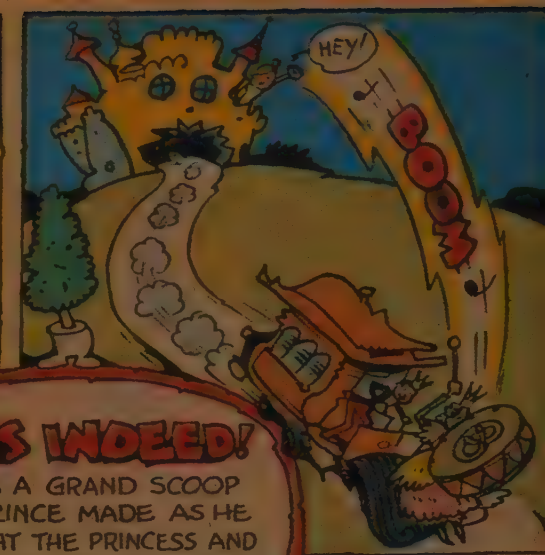
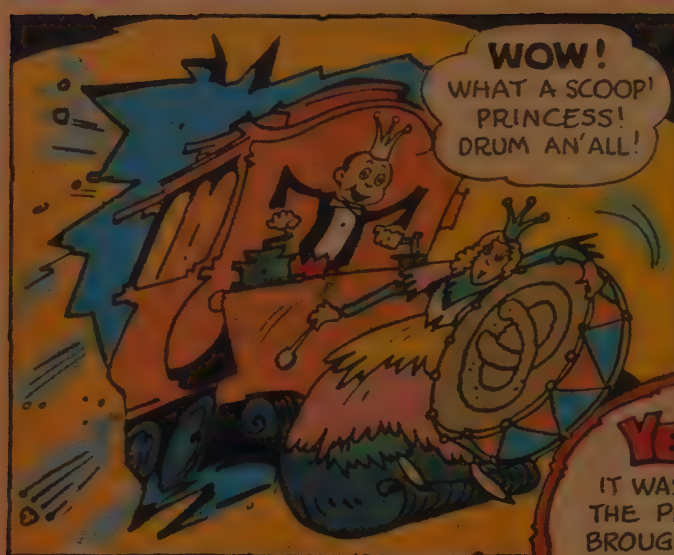
THE PRINCE AND HIS JOLLY-CAR SPED STRAIGHT TO THE RAJAH'S CASTLE FROM WHICH CAME AN OLD FAMILIAR SOUND..



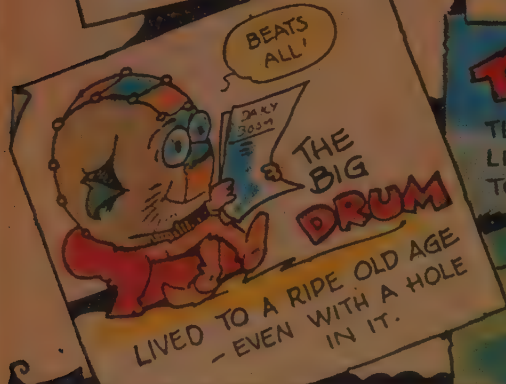
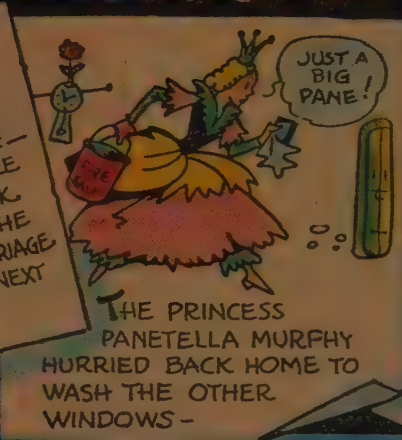
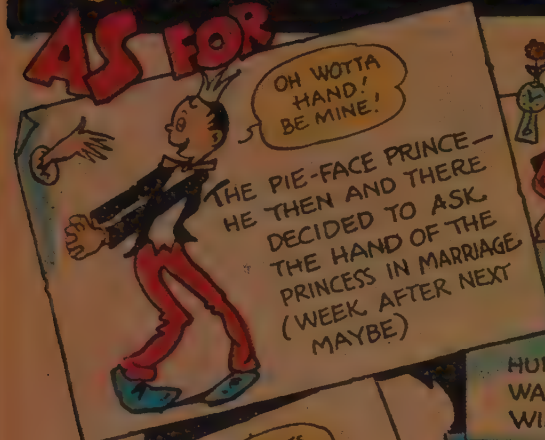
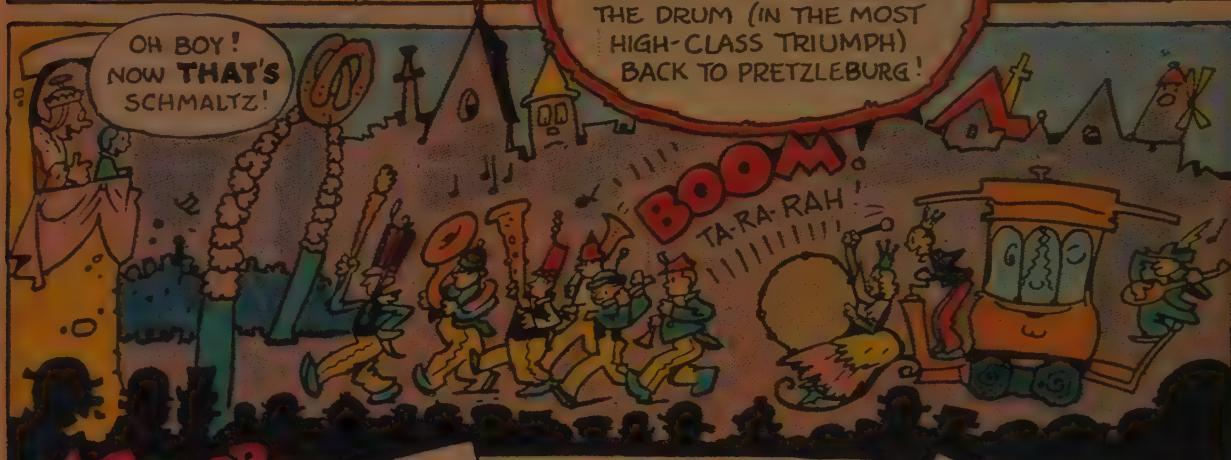
A STRANGE SIGHT GREETED THE PRINCE AS HE CRASHED INTO THE COURTYARD..

AND THE RAJAH HIMSELF MISSED ABOUT FORTY-TWO OUT OF HIS USUAL FORTY WINKS OF SLEEP.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE



YES INDEED!
IT WAS A GRAND SCOOP
THE PRINCE MADE AS HE
BROUGHT THE PRINCESS AND
THE DRUM (IN THE MOST
HIGH-CLASS TRIUMPH)
BACK TO PRETZLEBURG!



THE JOLLY-CAR
WENT TO
THE END OF THE
LINE AND FORGOT
TO COME BACK!



JINGLE JANGLE TALES

THE PINT-SIZE KING and the THREE JELLY-BEANS

ONCE

THERE LIVED A KING WHO HAD COME UNDER AN EVIL SPELL. THOUGH HE ONCE WAS VERY GREAT, HE HAD NOW BECOME SMALL AND QUITE PINT-SIZED. HIS KINGDOM TOO, WAS NOW SO SMALL THAT HE COULD HAVE MAILED IT ON A TWO-CENT STAMP. (IF HE HAD THE STAMP.) THINGS WERE IN AN AWFUL MESS, SO ONE DAY WHEN COUNTING HIS WEALTH, WHICH WASN'T ANY, HE FOUND THAT HE WAS DOWN TO HIS THREE LAST JELLY-BEANS, AND HE CALLED THEM TO HIM, SAYING

I AM SENDING YOU OUT INTO THE WORLD TO SEEK YOUR FORTUNE, BUT BETTER STILL, IF YOU CAN LEARN TO MAKE SOME HIGH-POWER CHEESE-CAKE, IT WOULD BREAK THIS EVIL SPELL THAT HAS MADE ME AND MY KINGDOM SO SMALL!

THE THREE LITTLE JELLY-BEANS WERE ALL SLICKED UP, WITH SHOE-LACES NEATLY PRESSED AND ALL, AS THEY SET OUT!

TWO MINUTES LATER THERE WAS A KNOCK ON THE CASTLE DOOR—

KNOCK!
KNOCK!

IT WAS

A VERY UNSPECIAL NOTE FOR YA, MISTER KING!
• ALL DONE UP IN EXTRA FRESH TIME-TABLES!



SO, OPENING IT TO PAGE SIX, THE KING READ:

I will be around ONE YEAR from tonight!
HAVE THAT CHEESE KAKE ready! or else!!
GASSO THE GOBLIN



THE KING LOOKED UP - THE MESSENGER WAS GONE!



HE'S GONE, ALL RIGHT!

YEP! - GONE!

GONE!

WHAT A SPOT I'M IN!
I MUST FIND OUT THE SECRET OF THAT CHEESE-CAKE OR I'M SUNK!



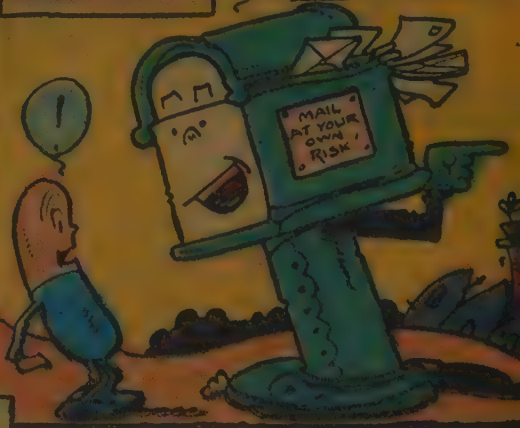
THIS TIME THE THREE LITTLE JELLY-BEANS PRANCED ALONG THE SUN-DRENCHED HIGHWAY AND THE OLDEST SPOKE UP:

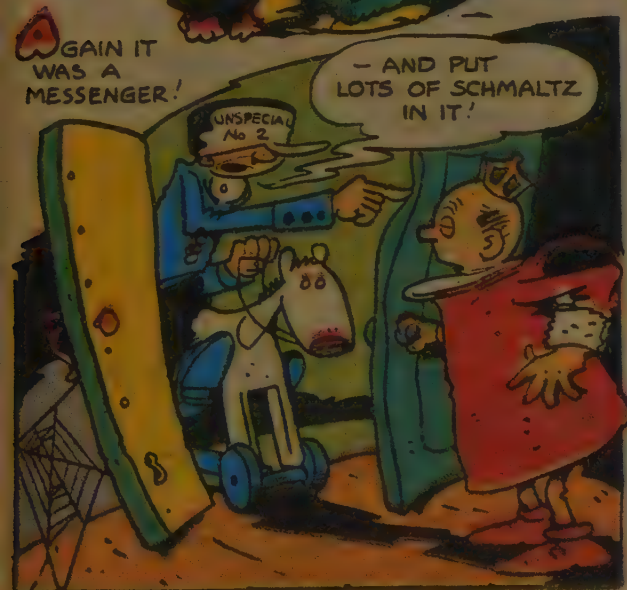
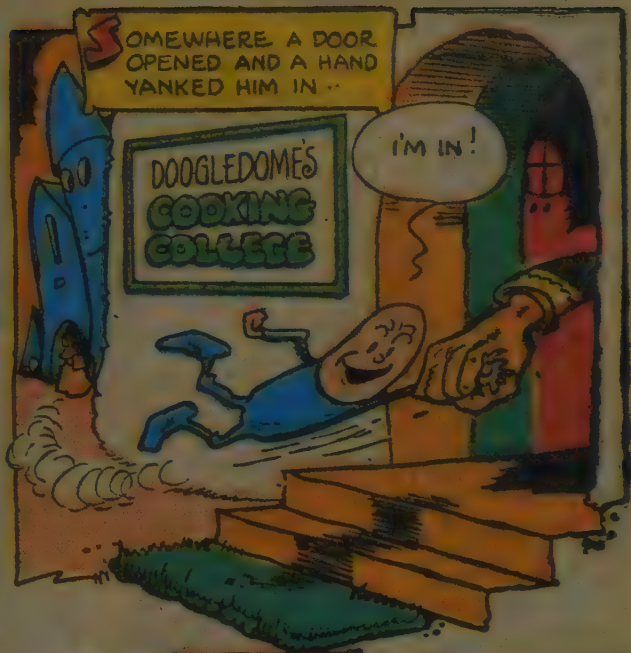
MAYBE IF I WENT TO SOME COLLEGE, I COULD LEARN TO MAKE THAT CHEESE-CAKE!



WELL-FILLED MAILBOX WHO KNEW ALL THE WRONG ADDRESSES HEARD HIM!

HI FELLA! IF IT'S AN EASY COLLEGE Y'WANT, TRY DOOGLEDOME'S, TWO BLOCKS DOWN AN A DOLLAR A WEEK!





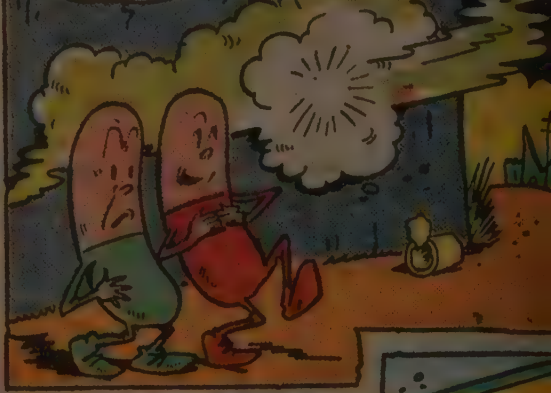
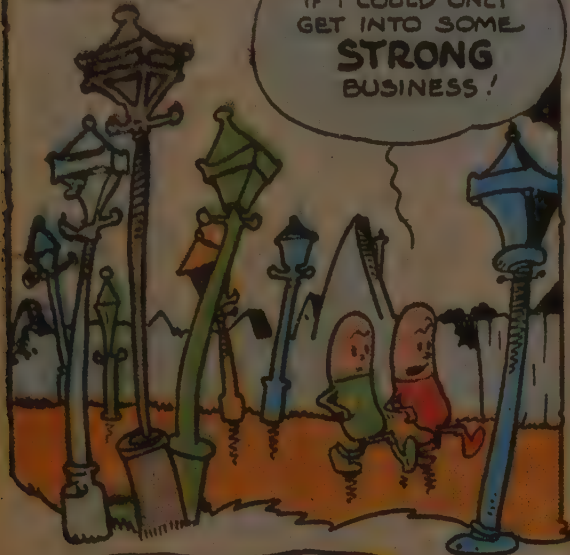
THE SECOND OLDEST
JULY-BEAN ALSO
HAD AMBITION —

NOW
IF I COULD ONLY
GET INTO SOME
STRONG
BUSINESS!

AND THEN
SUDDENLY —

WHAT A
SMELL!

WHAT A
DELIGHTFUL
AROMA!



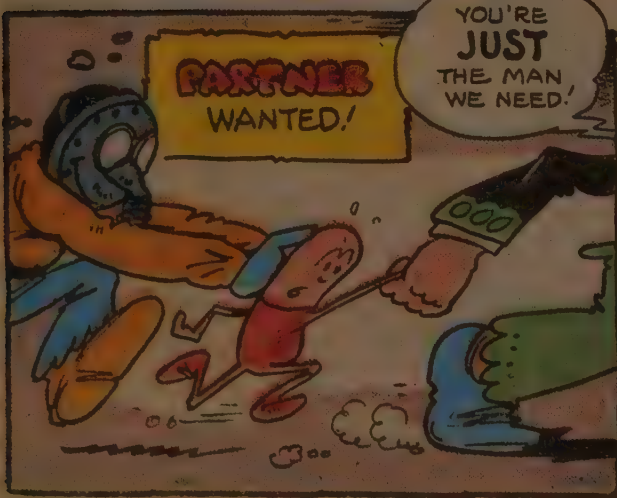
I MUST
FOLLOW
THAT UP!

HM!
HE CAN
HAVE IT!
I WANT
SOMETHIN'
BETTER!



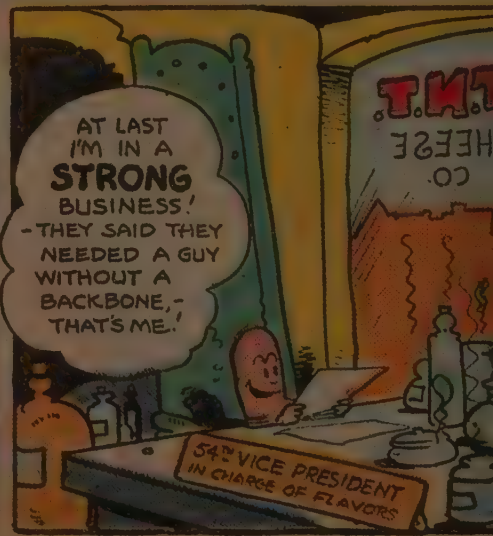
HERE'S
TH' PLACE,
BUDDY!

YEAH!
I KNOW!



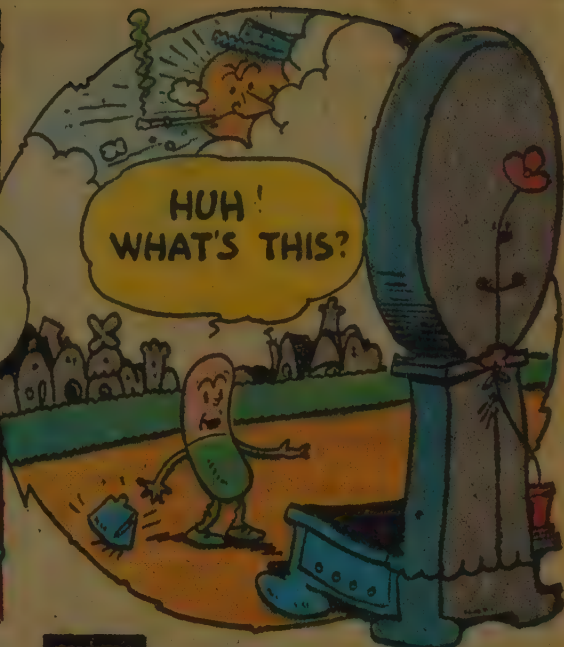
**PARTNER
WANTED!**

YOU'RE
JUST
THE MAN
WE NEED!



AT LAST
I'M IN A
STRONG
BUSINESS!
— THEY SAID THEY
NEEDED A GUY
WITHOUT A
BACKBONE, —
THAT'S ME.

54TH VICE PRESIDENT
IN CHARGE OF FLAVORS



MEANTIME
IN THE ROYAL
PINT-SIZE
KITCHEN



HERE GOESTH'
RESULT OF A
YEAR AT
DOOGLEDOME'S!

AN' A
YEAR AT
TH' T.N.T.!



About “Little Lulu” and John Stanley

Late in 1934, there was a small crisis at the *Saturday Evening Post*. The magazine was losing Carl Anderson’s popular weekly panel cartoon, *Henry*, to King Features Syndicate. An editor at the *Post* asked a regular contributor to the magazine, Marjorie Henderson Buell—she signed her cartoons “Marge”—for help in coming up with a replacement for *Henry*. The *Post* wanted a child like Henry, but a girl this time. “The editors noodled out the name,” Mrs. Buell told an interviewer more than thirty years later. “I was too busy thinking about how she’d look and what she’d do.”

The name the editors “noodled out” was “Little Lulu.” For a design, Mrs. Buell essentially added a skirt and corkscrew curls to Henry’s shoe-button eyes and up-turned nose. The new character was a devilish child, heiress to a long line of such characters that in newspaper comics extended back to the Yellow Kid, Buster Brown, and the Katzenjammer Kids. Like theirs, her mischief, as displayed in a weekly panel, often bordered on the malicious.

Lulu first appeared in the *Post* for February 23, 1935, and ran there until the end of 1944. By that time, Lulu was also appearing in animated cartoons and in ads for Kleenex tissues. “The *Post* didn’t want me to go into large-scale business with Lulu,” Mrs. Buell has said, “but I wanted to see what she could do in all forms. We parted amicably.”

A few months after Lulu left the *Post*, she made her debut in a comic book. That first issue of *Little Lulu* was written and drawn by a cartoonist named John Stanley. (At *the Beach*, the first of the four stories we have chosen for his book, is from that issue.) Stanley also wrote and illustrated the second issue of *Little Lulu*. After that, he drew only the covers, but he wrote everything in each issue for thirteen or fourteen years—about 150 issues, all told—and his writing made *Little Lulu* an extraordinary comic book.

John Stanley was born on March 22, 1914, in New York City, and he worked briefly at the Max Fleischer animation studios, made drawings for Disney merchandise, and held down other jobs before he began writing and drawing stories for Western Printing and Lithographing Company (which produced comic books for publication by another company, Dell) in the early 1940s. At that time, Western produced many comic books for small children, most of them edited by Oskar Lebeck. Lebeck ruled with a light hand, and cartoonists like Walt Kelly, Dan Noonan, Morris Gollub, and, of course, John Stanley did charming and funny work for him. It was Lebeck who assigned Stanley to *Little Lulu*. “I’m sure it was due to no special form of brilliance he thought I’d lend to it,” Stanley told Don Phelps. “It could have been

handed to Dan Noonan, Kelly, or anyone else. I just happened to be available at the time."

To say that Stanley "wrote" *Little Lulu* is actually a little deceptive, since he was responsible for more than the plots and the dialogue. He sketched each story in rough form, so that he controlled the staging within each panel and the appearance and the attitudes of the characters. The finished drawings were made by other cartoonists (the three later stories in this book were illustrated by Irving Tripp). Stanley himself disliked the published drawings—"too static for me"—but in fact, the "static" style seems appropriate for such highly stylized characters.

Like the panel cartoons, Stanley's stories had a strong flavor of the 1930s. Most obviously, the children—especially the boys—dressed in styles of that decade (knickers, shorts, and so on). Lulu's home town was not suburban, but looked like an eastern city of the Depression years: small, plain houses, with tiny yards or none at all (many front doors opened directly onto the sidewalk). Families were small—one or two children—and the parents usually middle-aged or close to it. Like the *Archie* stories, whose trappings were similarly dated, Stanley's *Lulu* stories remained frozen in time, with only a few concessions to postwar changes. The anachronisms seem never to have been bothered *Little Lulu's* readers.

At first, Stanley's conception of Lulu herself owed quite a bit to Marge's. But Stanley's Lulu was not so much mischievous as single-minded. She had a very clear idea of what was important to *her*, and she wasn't distracted by irrelevancies like what adults thought was important. Children are, after all, very serious about their own concerns, and Stanley's stories abound in collisions between adults and children all of whom are behaving reasonably—on their own terms.

For the first few years, Stanley worked mainly with Lulu herself and her friend Tubby (who was, like Lulu, inherited from the magazine cartoons). Other children appeared in more or less interchangeable roles until, around 1950, Stanley gave Tubby a group of friends—Willie, Eddie, and Iggy—and a clubhouse, and gave Lulu some other girls to play with, including a buck-toothed gamine named Annie. The rivalry between boys and girls—an element in the series from the start—was magnified by the presence of so many children from both sexes. Lulu herself became a "good little girl" who outsmarted the boys, instead of triumphing through sheer brass as she had in the past. Many of the stories built around the rivalry theme are ingenious and funny, and the best of them spiral upward until the boys

become the victims of a comic catastrophe like the one at the climax of *Five Little Babies*, which follows here.

Stanley found other ideas that could be nursed into comic life and exploited in one story after another. For example, Tubby assumed Lulu's old role as the serenely egocentric child, resenting all adult efforts to deflect him from his course; he played that role brilliantly in a string of stories in which he became "the Spider," a detective wreaking all the havoc necessary to solve a case. (Lulu's father was invariably the culprit—although he was of course no culprit at all by adult standards.)

Stanley's most striking departure from the feature he inherited from Marge was in the stories that Lulu told to Alvin, a vicious little next-door neighbor whose personality was not far removed from that of the magazine-cartoon Lulu. Beneath the laughter, Stanley's mock fairy tales could be as strong as real fairy tales. Lulu was the featured player, as well as the narrator, and she often took the part of a cheerful Candide in a world otherwise filled with greedy and stupid people. In *The Little Rich Boy*, a story we have chosen for this book, the fairy-tale Lulu is an ingénue indeed—until she gets rich. Then she takes revenge, with a chilling thoroughness, on the boy who has scorned her love.

While he was writing *Little Lulu*, Stanley contributed scripts to many other Dell comic books, and in the 1960s, after leaving *Lulu*, he both wrote and illustrated a few, like *Melvin Monster*. But he left comic books years ago (his comments on comic books—even his own work—have become rather sour), and he has worked recently for a silk-screening company in upstate New York.

M.B.

marge's LITTLE LULU at the beach

HURRY UP, LULU!
AREN'T YA
READY
YET?



LET'S
GO!

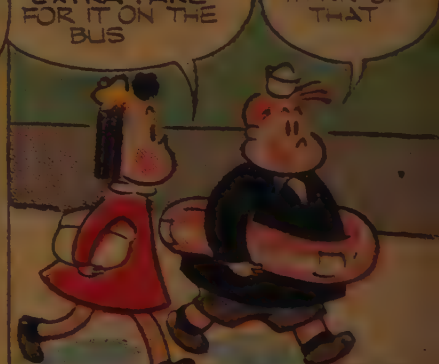
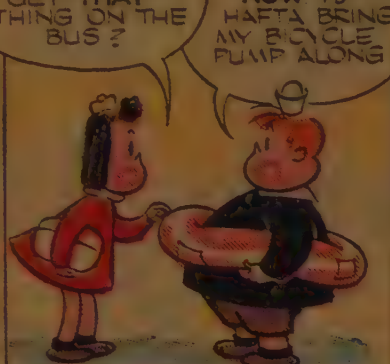
IT'S A
LONG WAY
TO THE
BEACH

SAY, HOW
WE GOIN'
TO GET THAT
THING ON THE
BUS?

IF I DIDN'T
PUMP IT UP
NOW I'D
HAFTA BRING
MY BICYCLE
PUMP ALONG

WE MAY HAVE
TO PAY AN
EXTRA FARE
FOR IT ON THE
BUS

I DIDN'T
THINK OF
THAT



THERE MAY
BE A WAY WE
CAN HIDE
IT

HOW?

THERE! IT
ONLY MAKES
YOU A LITTLE
FATTER

I
CAN'T
SEE
MY
FEET



HERE'S
THE
BUS

HOW'M I
GONNA
GET AT
MY NICKEL



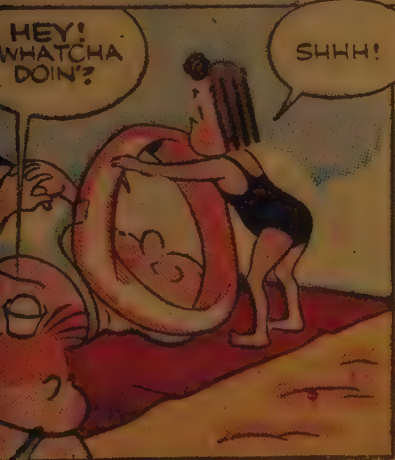
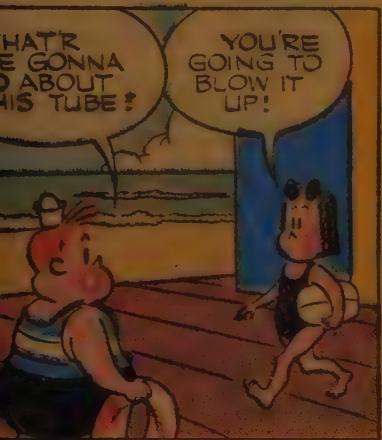
STEP UP!
STEP UP!

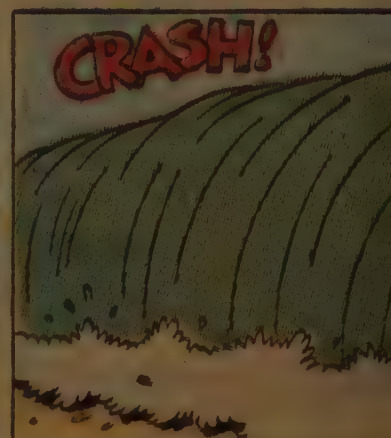
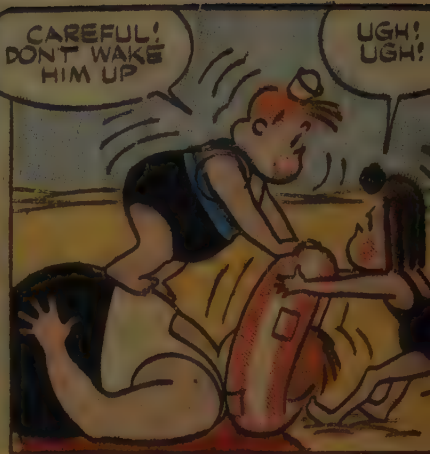
C'MON...PUSH,
TUBBY!

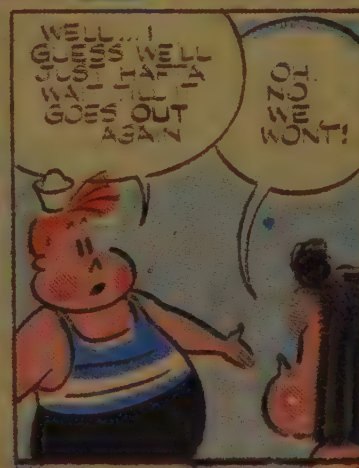
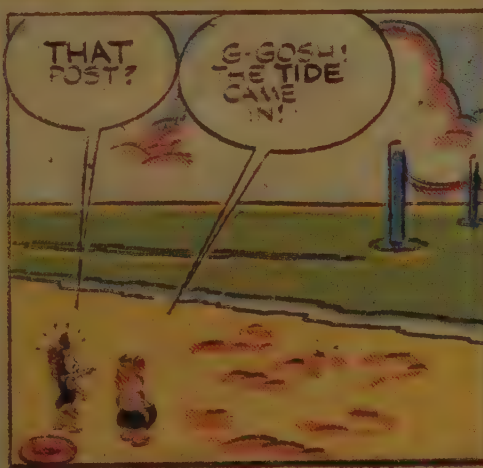
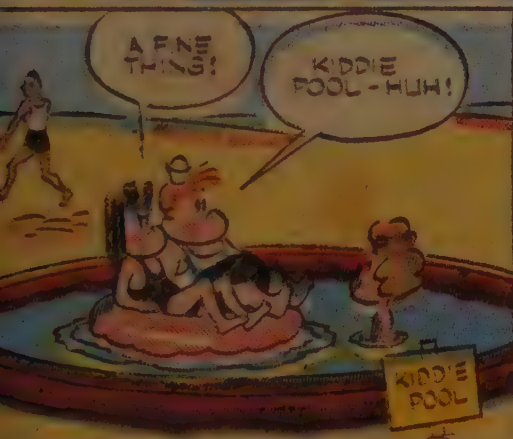
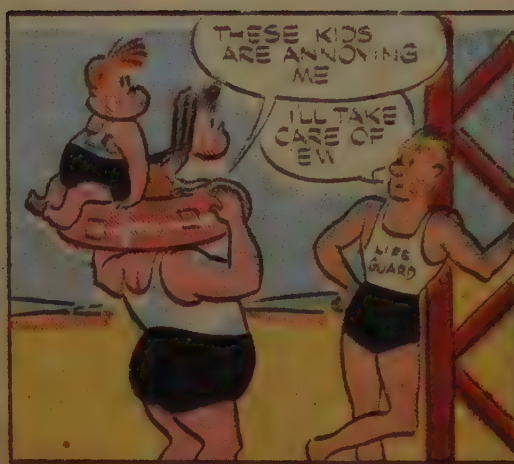
I'M BEIN'
SQUEEZED
TO DEATH!

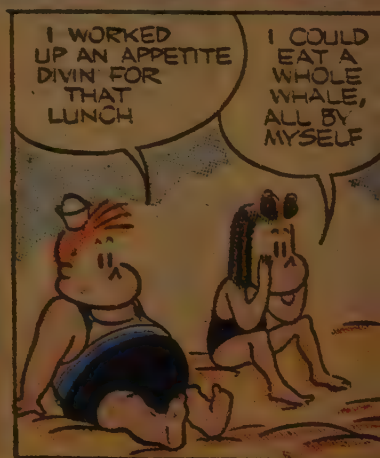
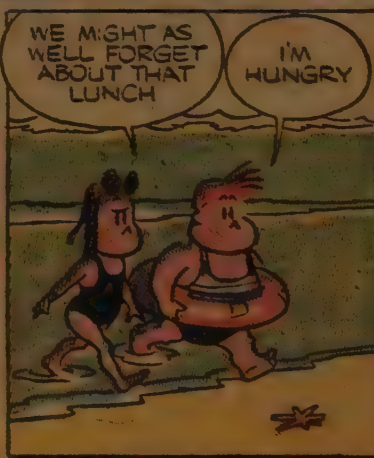
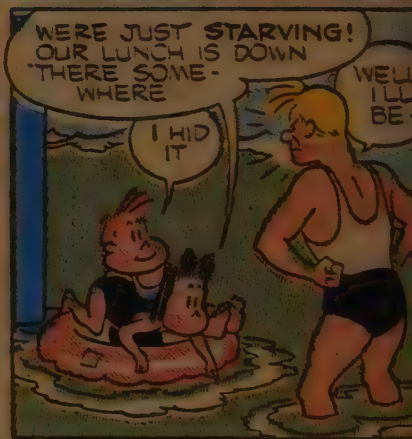
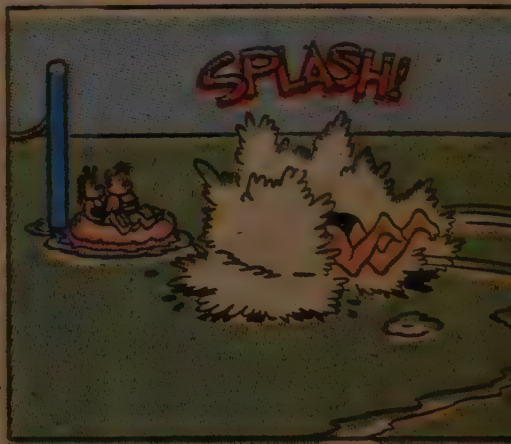
I'M NOT!
THIS TUBE
SURE MAKES
A NICE
CUSHION

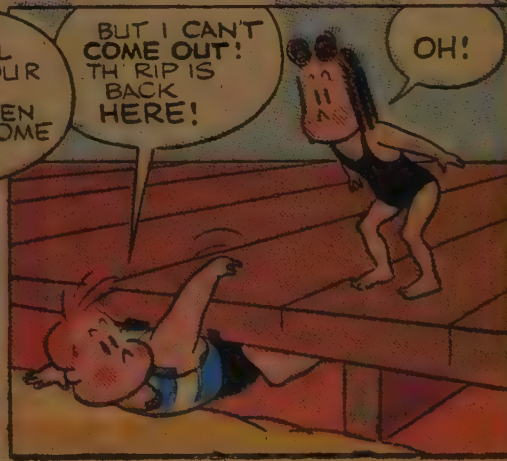
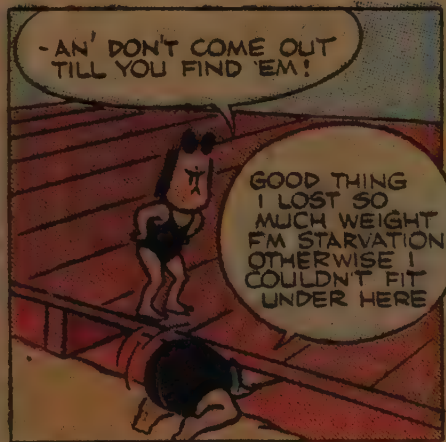
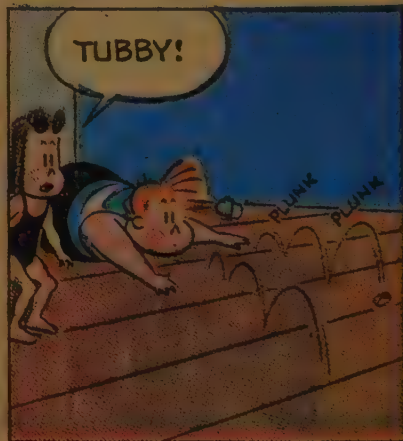
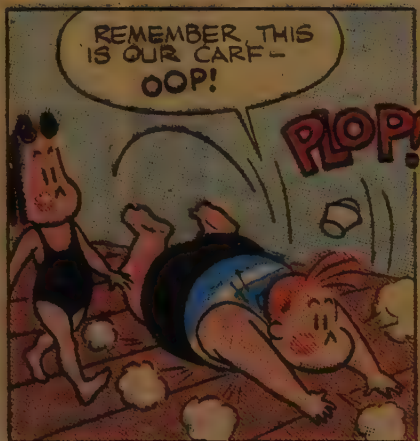
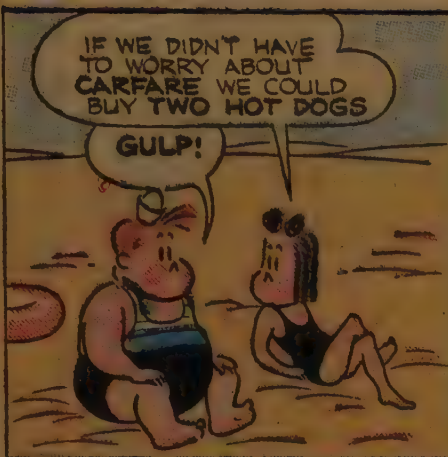


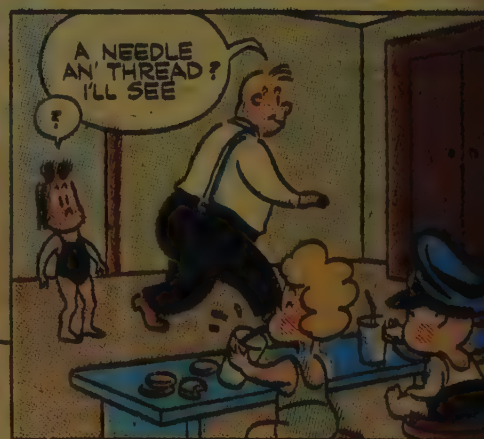
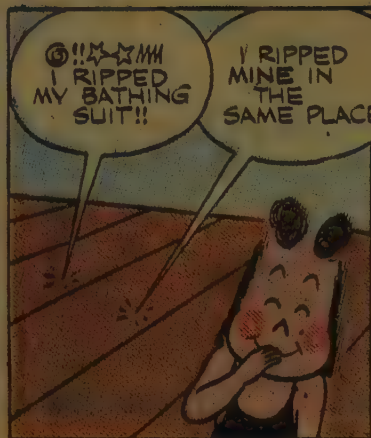
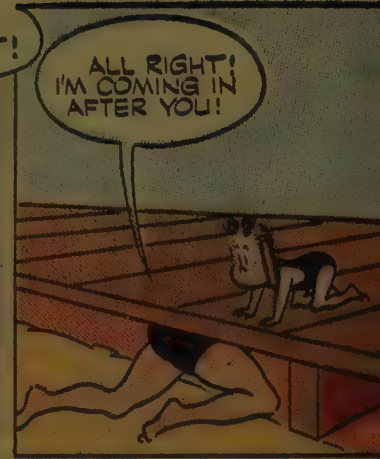
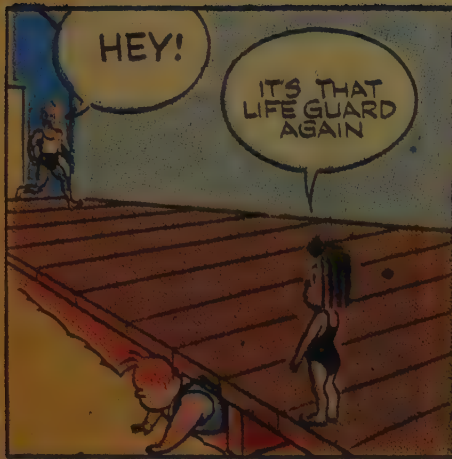


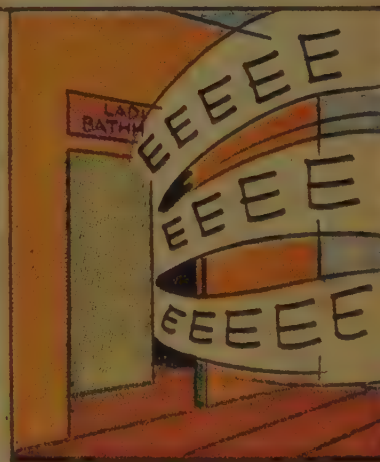
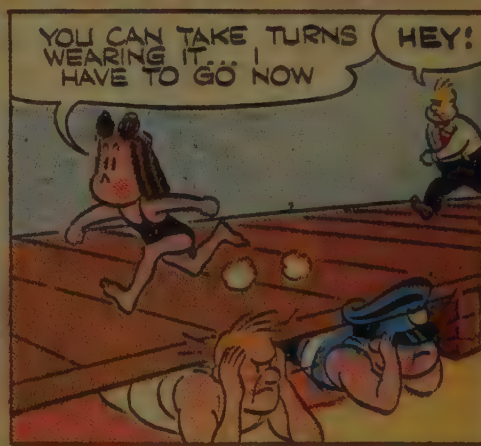
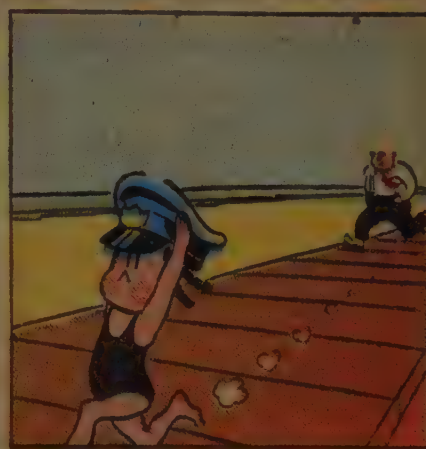


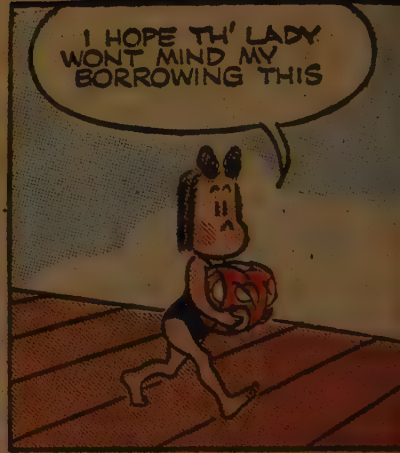


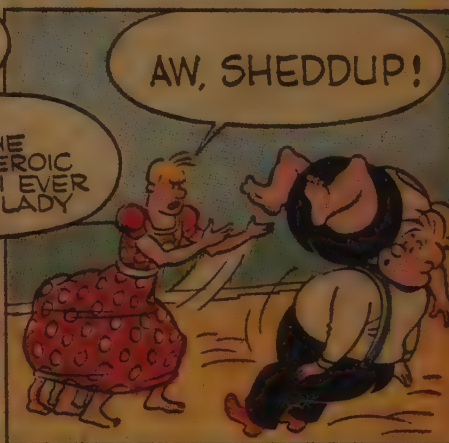
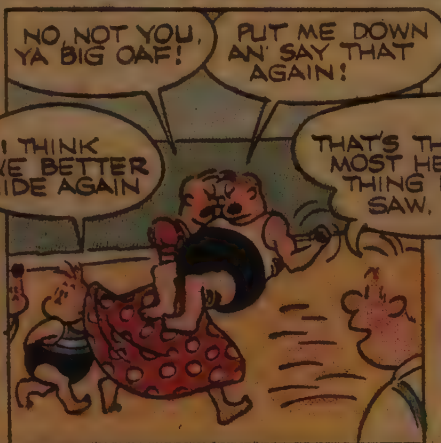
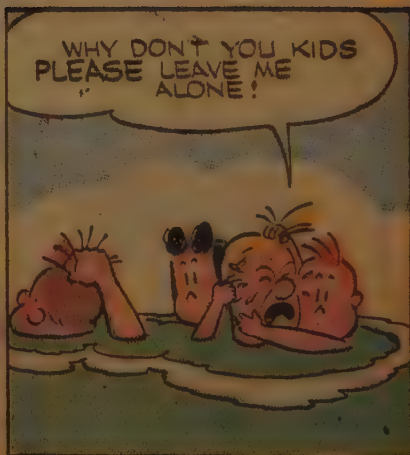












Marge's

LITTLE LULU

five little babies

HEY, FELLERS, HERE COMES THAT FRESH RICH KID, WILBUR VAN SNOBBE!

SO WHAT?

WHAT'RE WE SUPPOSED TO DO, STAND AT ATTENTION OR SOMETHIN'?

HI, FELLERS!

HI!

WATCH OUT, FELLERS!!

HUH? YOW! WHAT--?

WATCH OUT YOU DON'T CATCH COLD LYING ON THAT DAMP GROUND!

WISE GUY!

YOU BETTER WATCH OUT YOU DON'T CATCH A POKE IN THE NOSE, WILBUR!

NOT IN FRONT OF GLORIA, FELLERS!

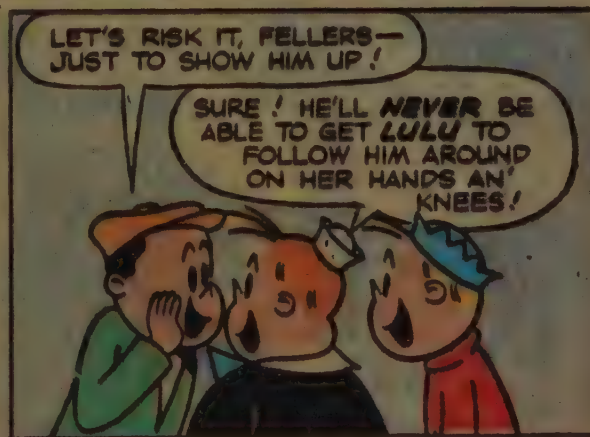
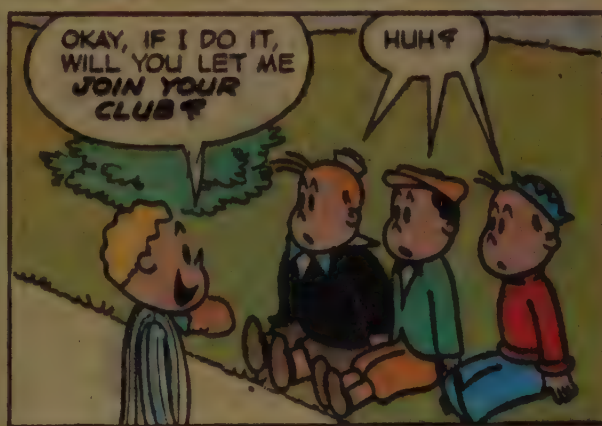
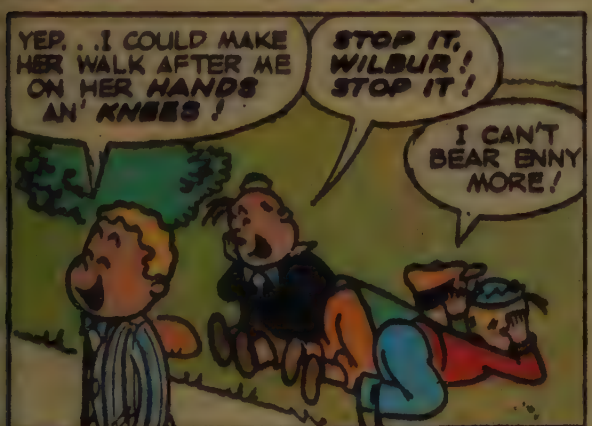
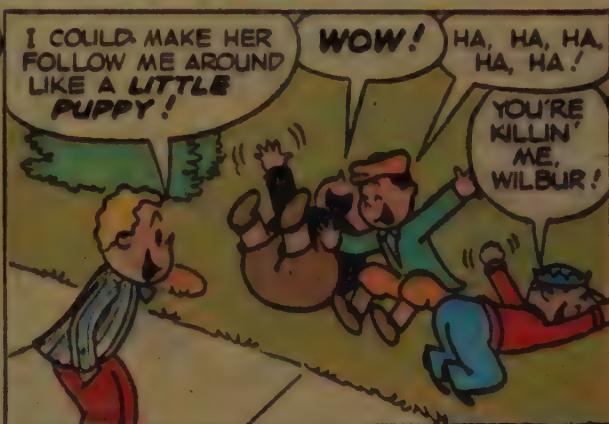
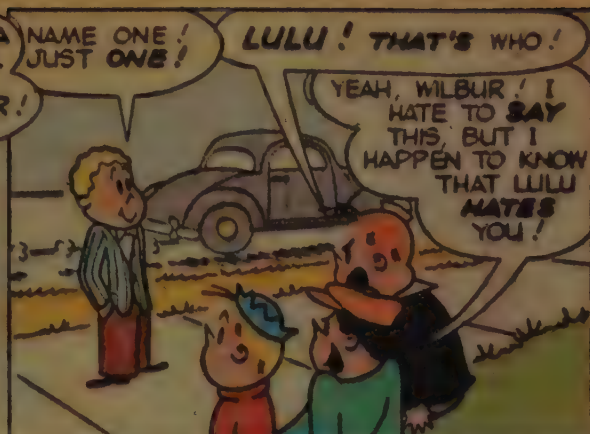
HELLO, WILBUR!

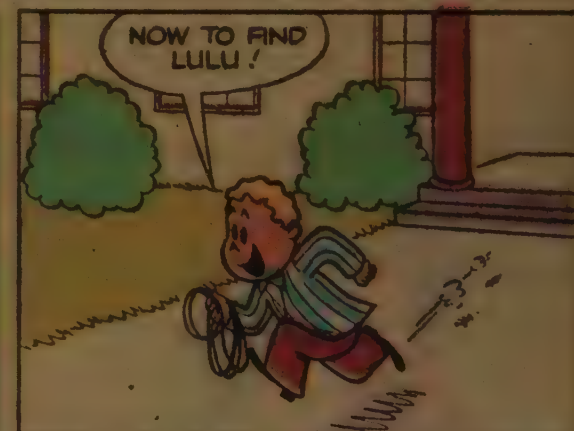
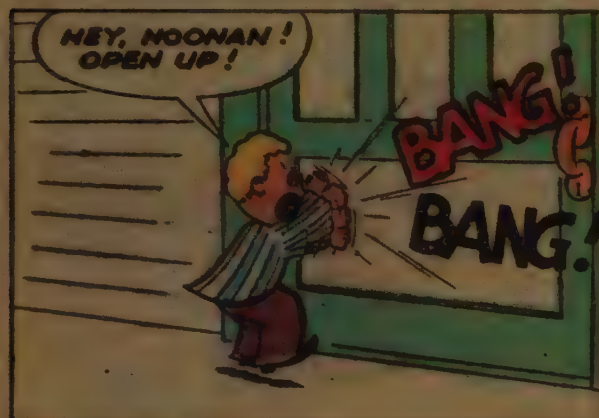
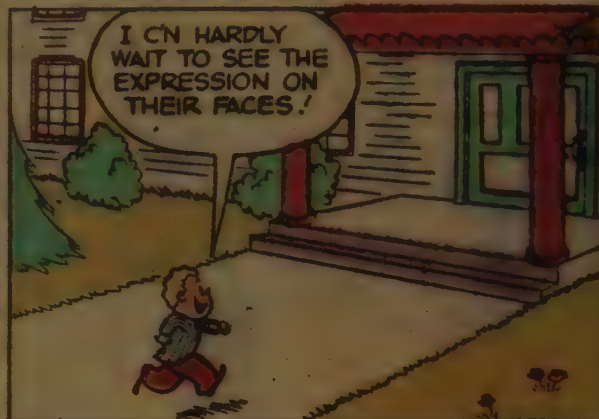
HI, GLORIA!

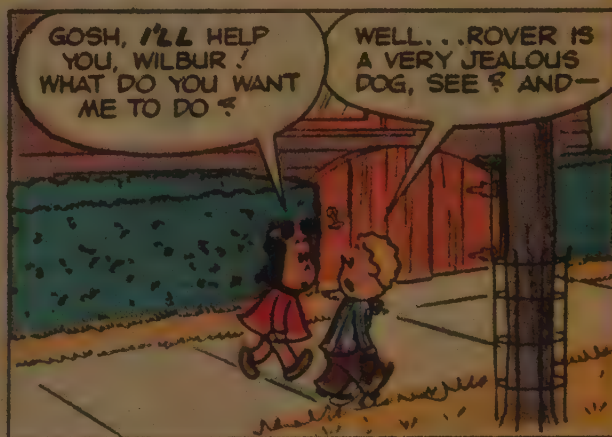
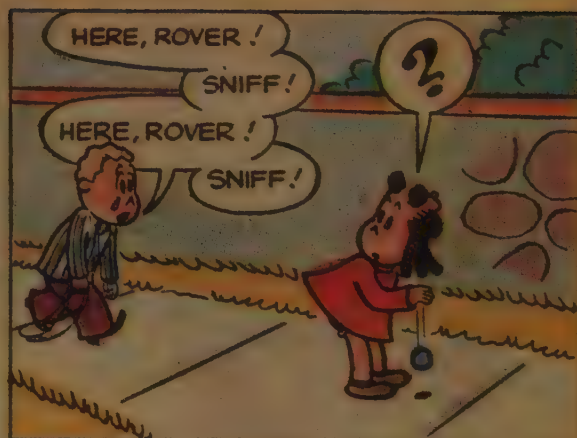
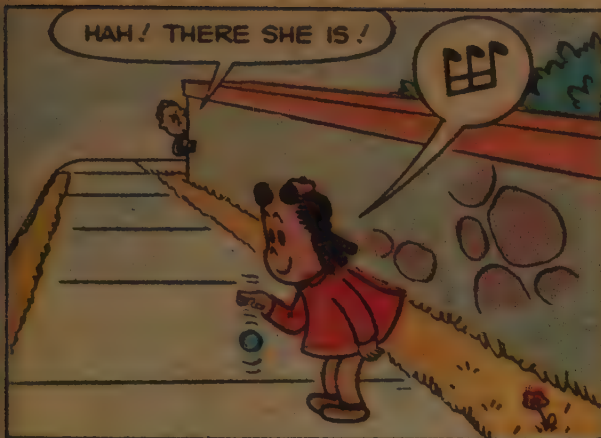
HI, GLORIA!!

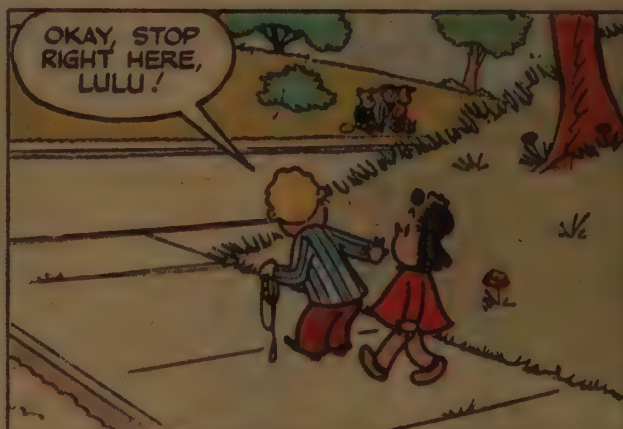
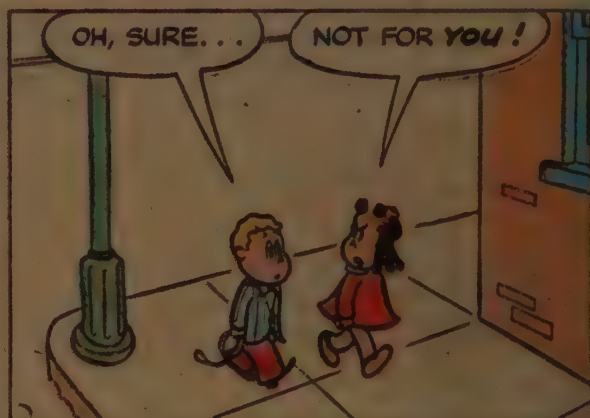
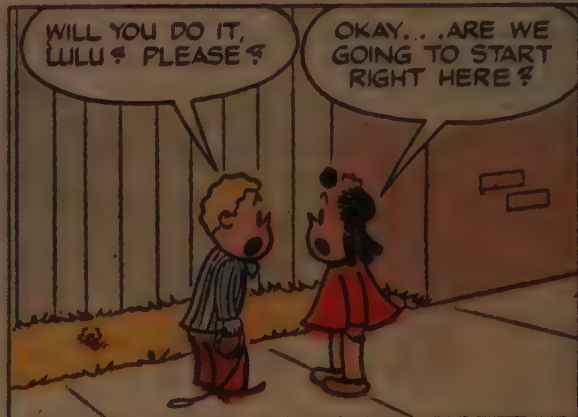
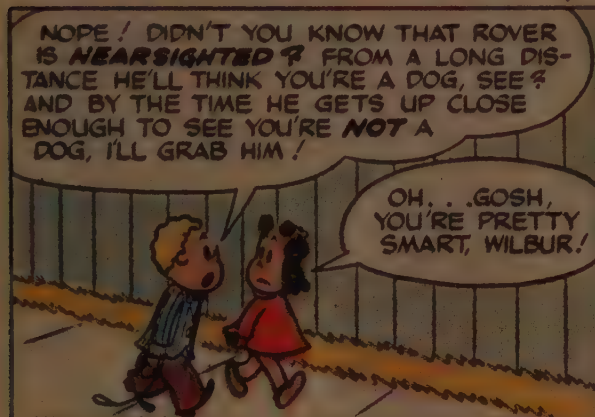
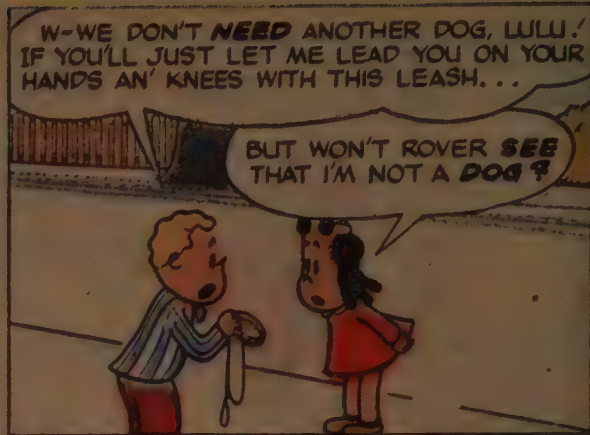
I GUESS YOU FELLERS NOTICED THAT SHE ONLY SAID HELLO TO ME!

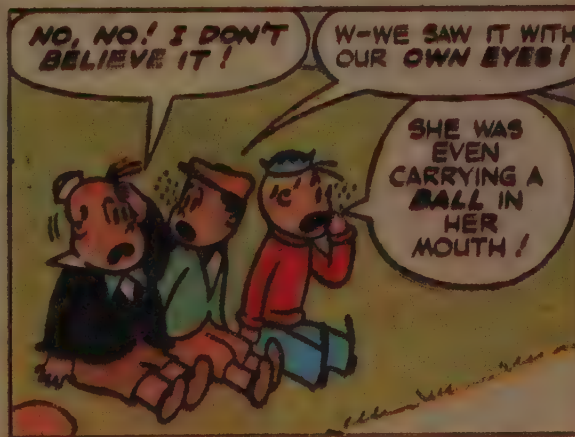
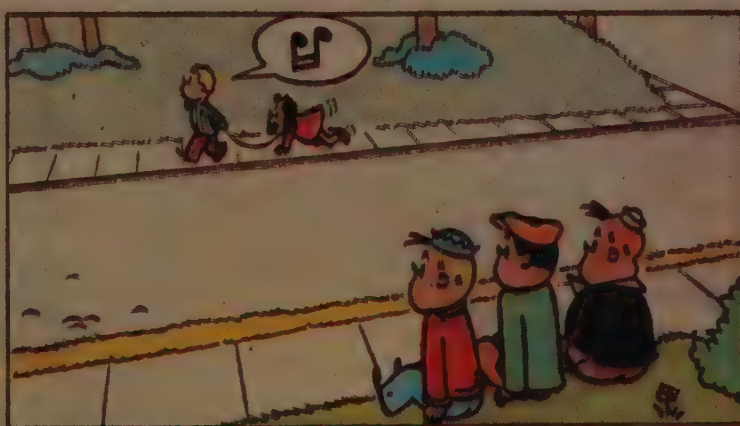
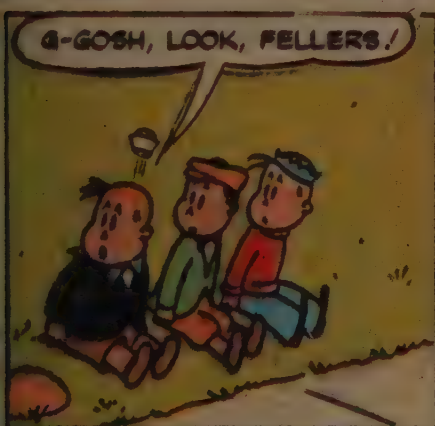
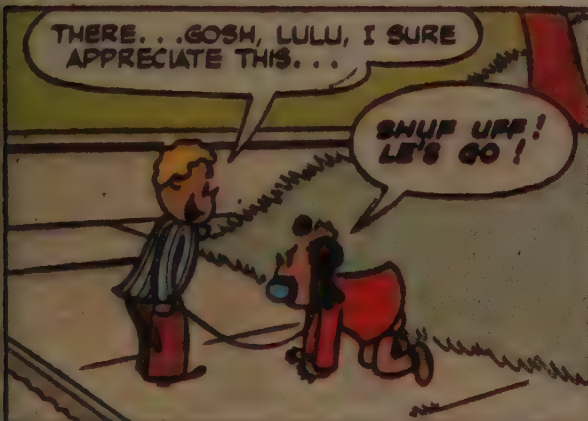
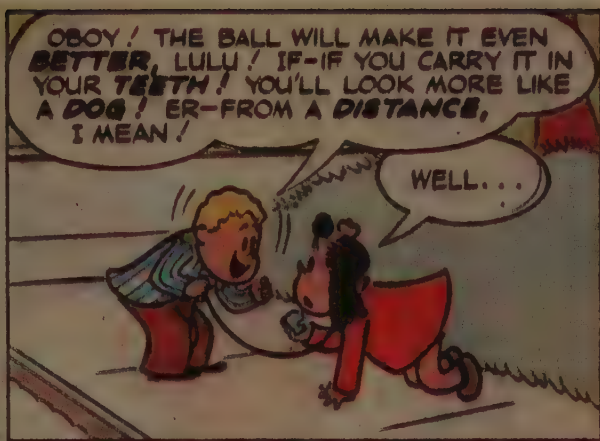
L.L. 38-518

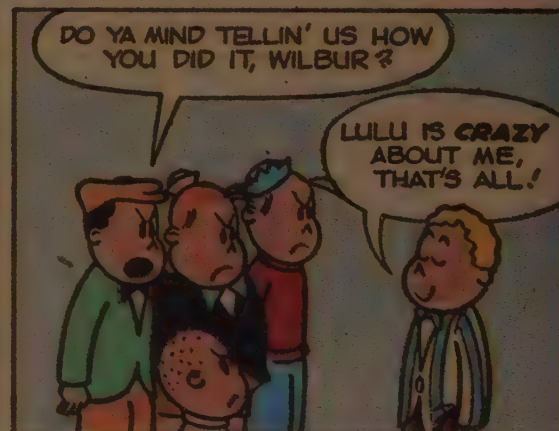
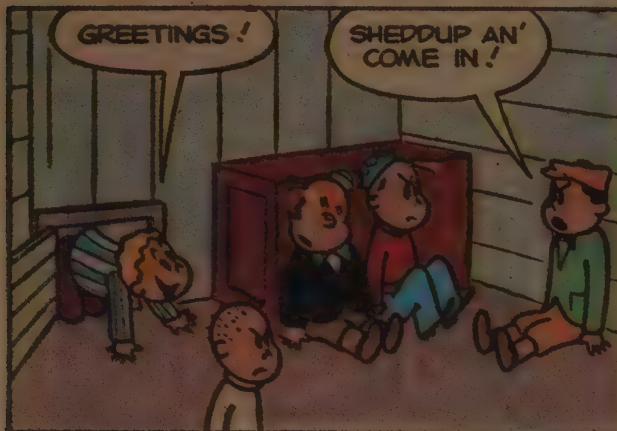


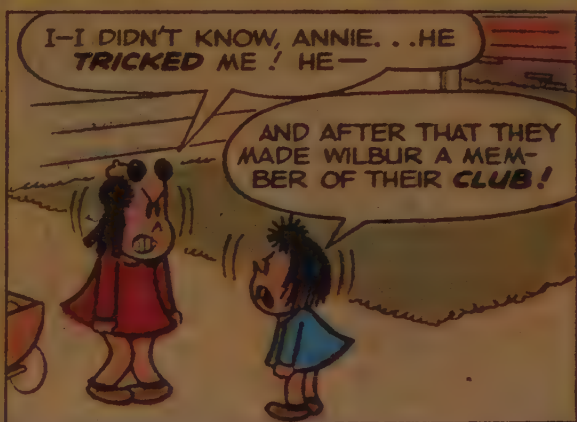
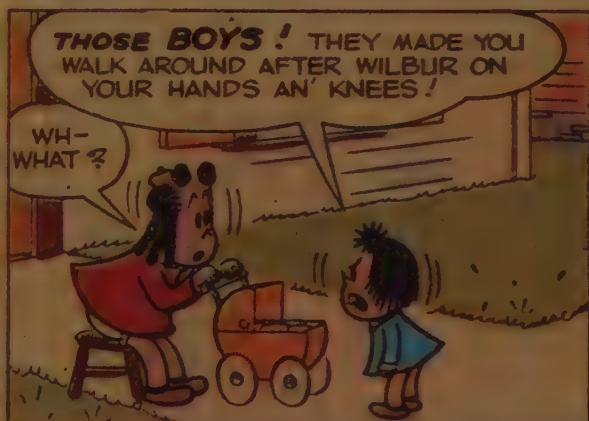
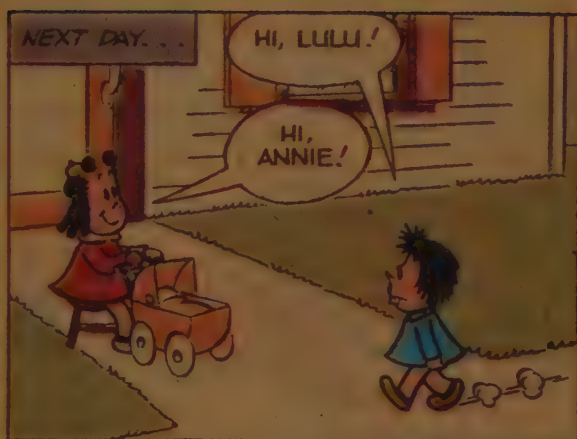
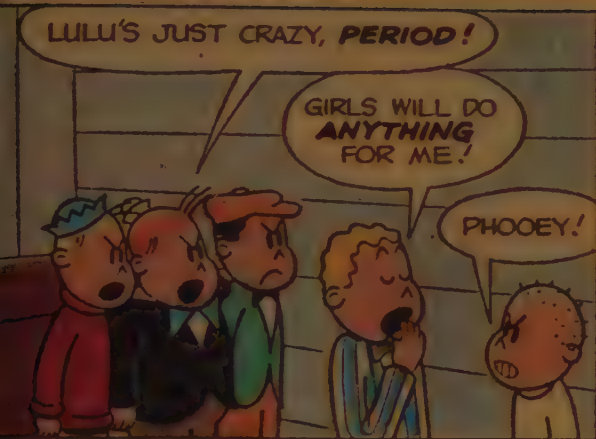


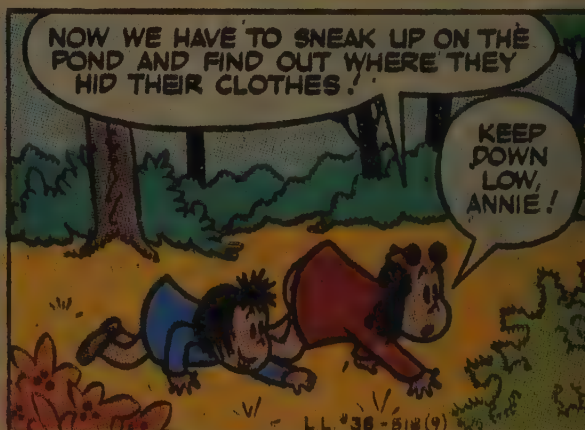
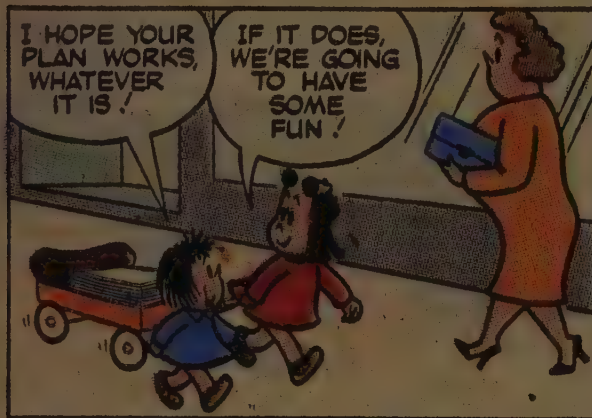
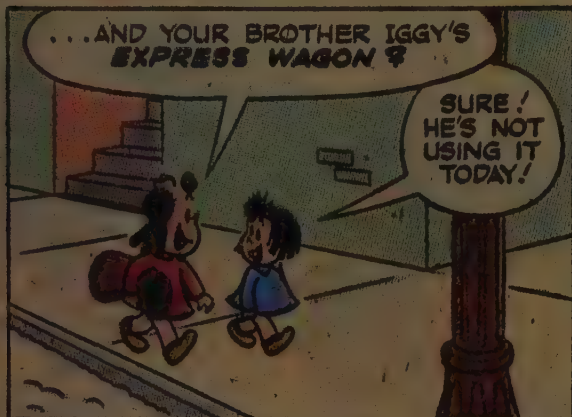
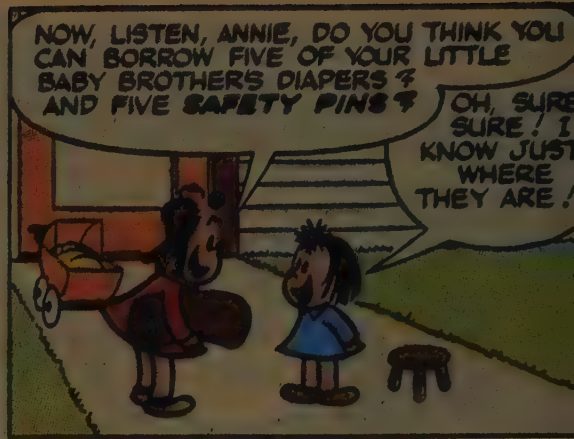


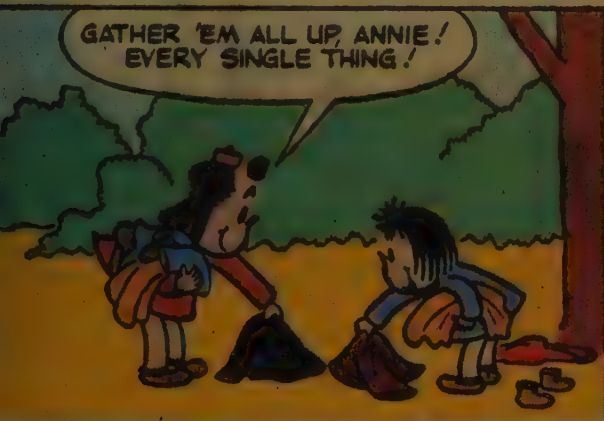
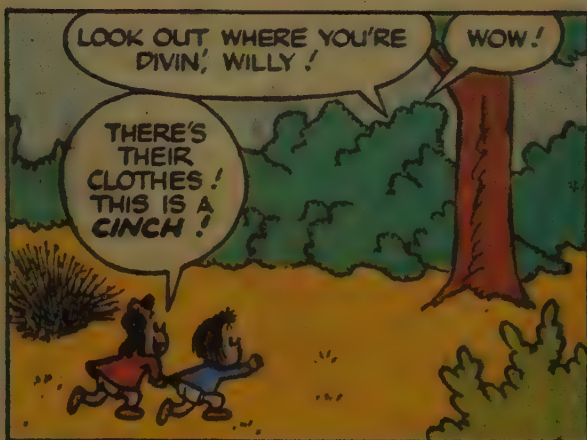


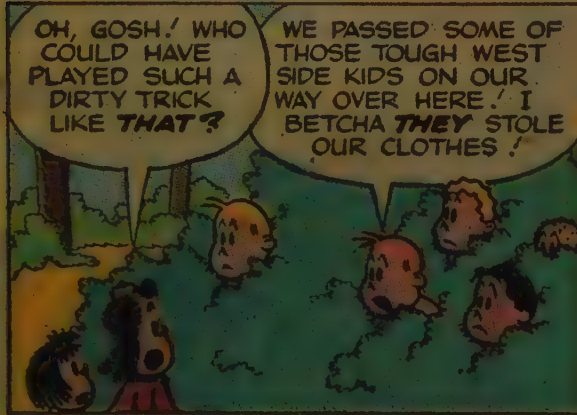
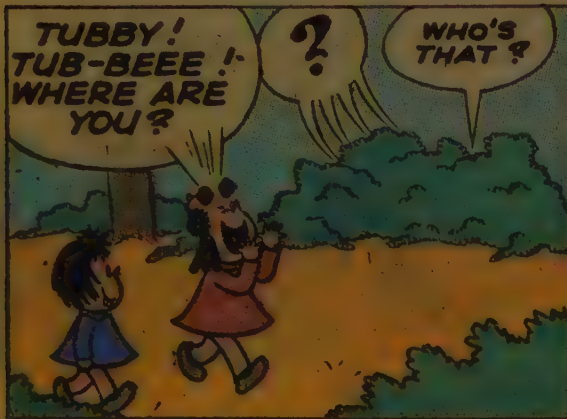
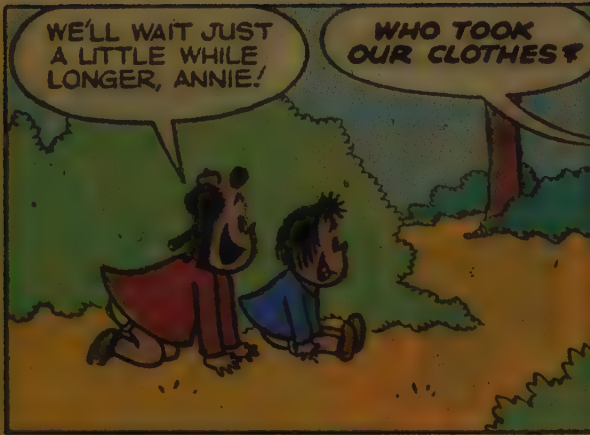


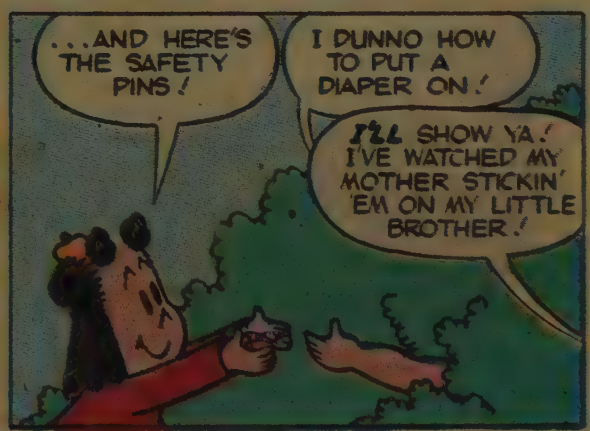
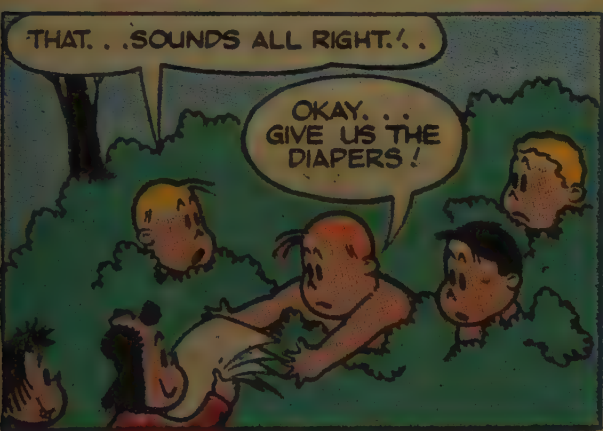
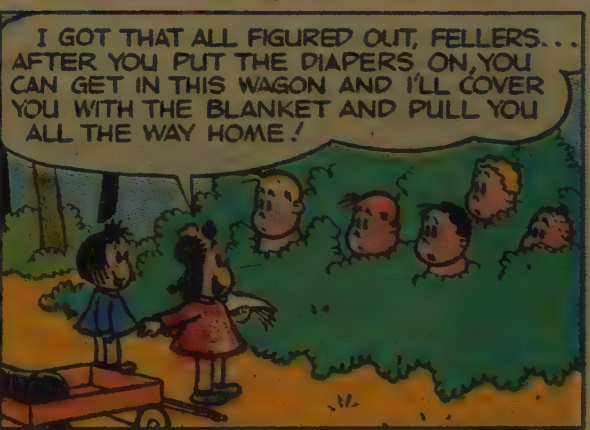
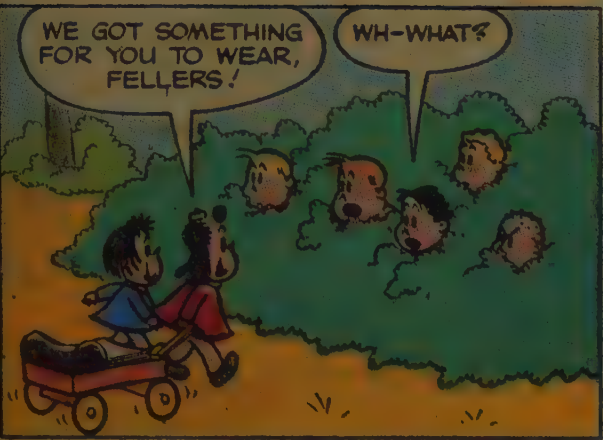


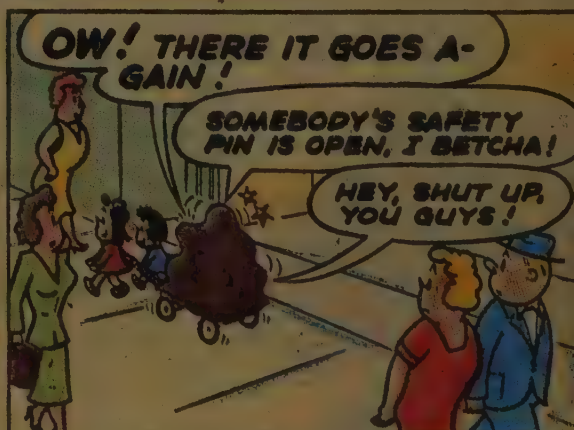
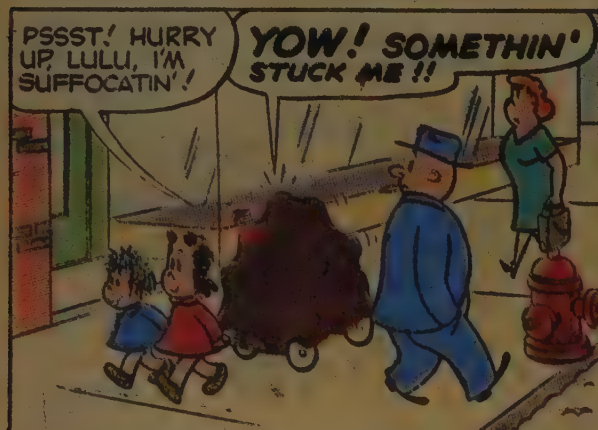
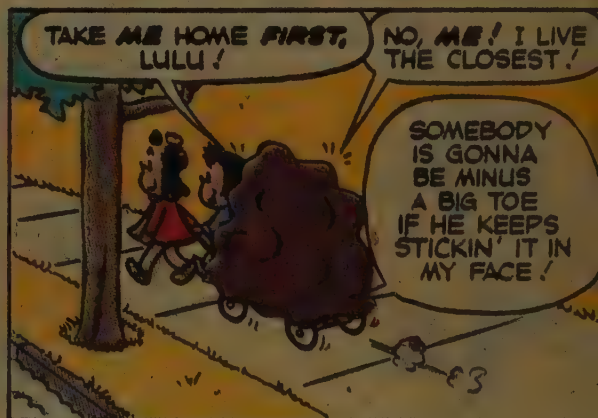
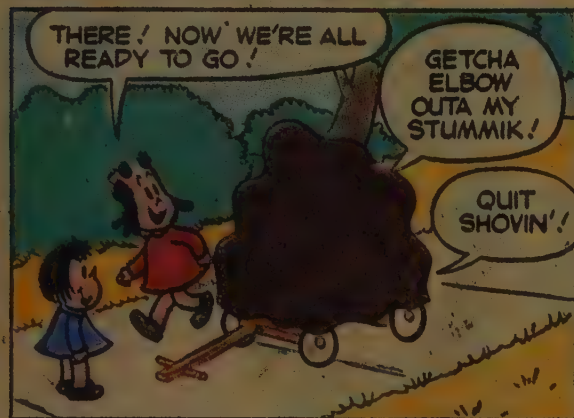
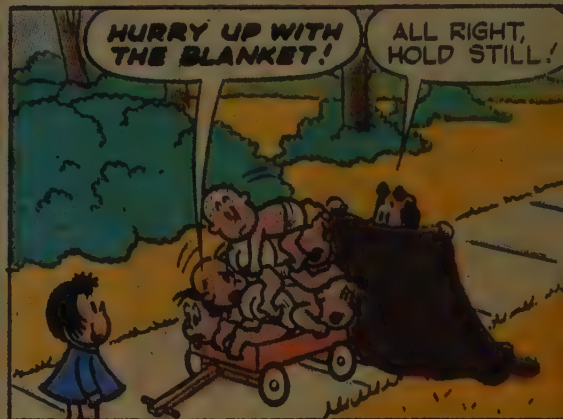
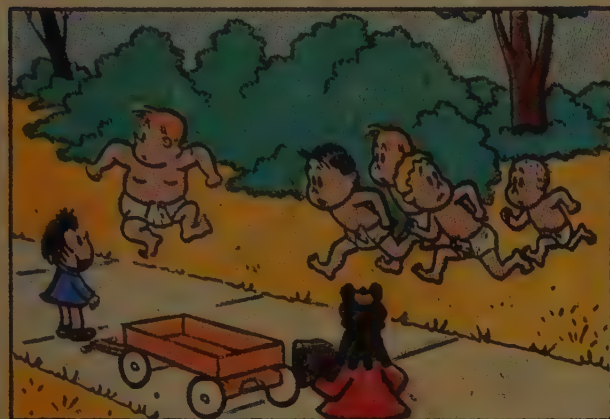
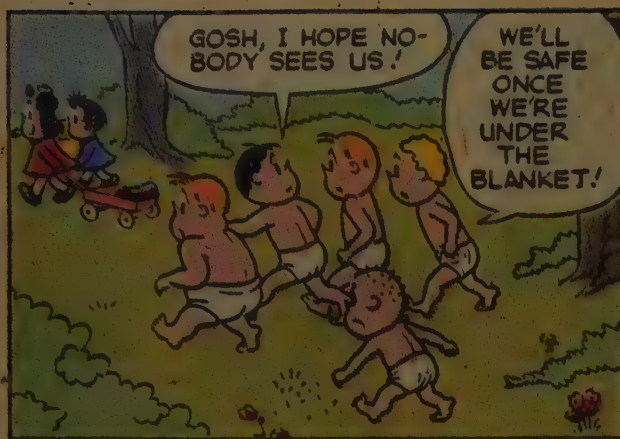


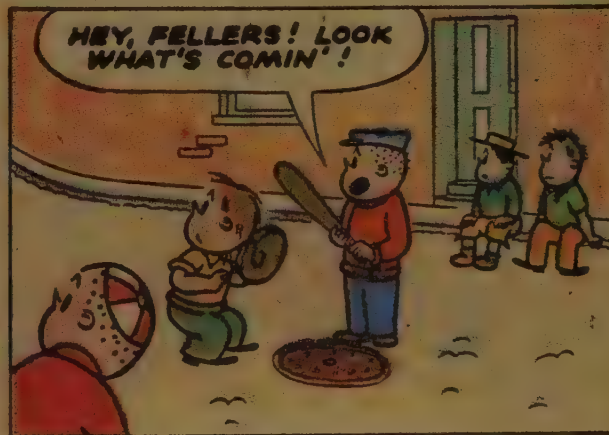
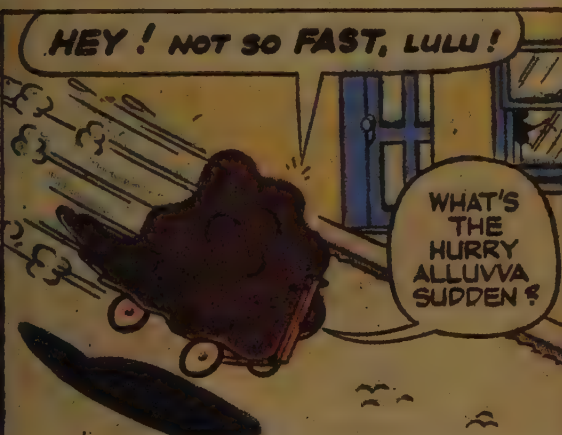
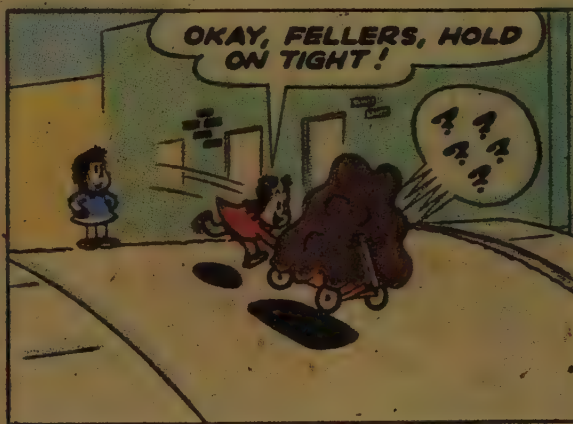
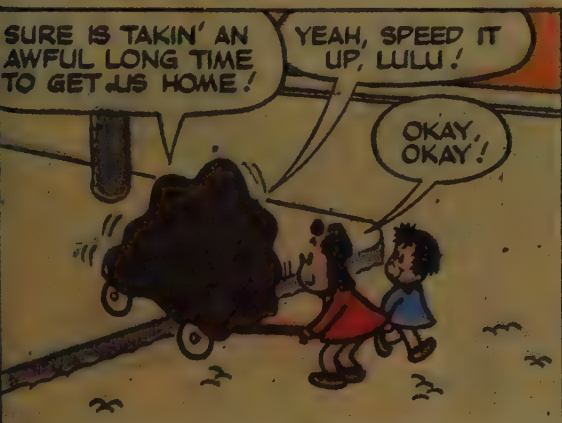
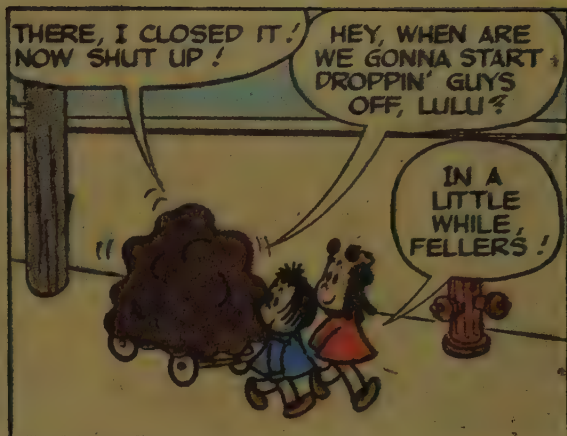
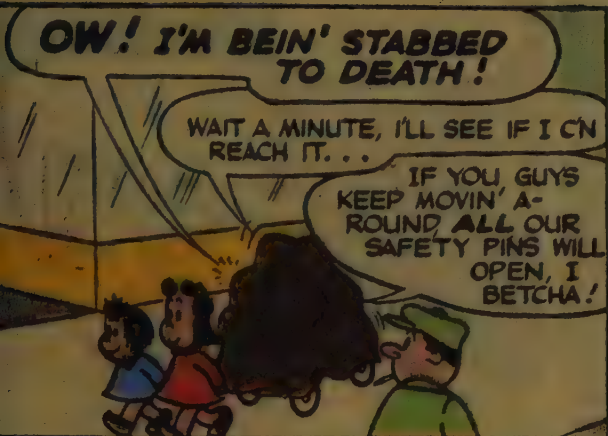


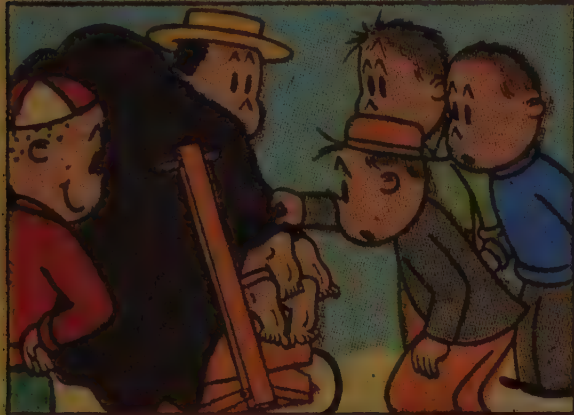
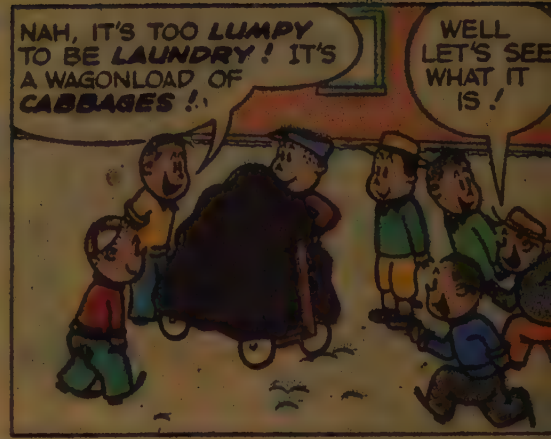


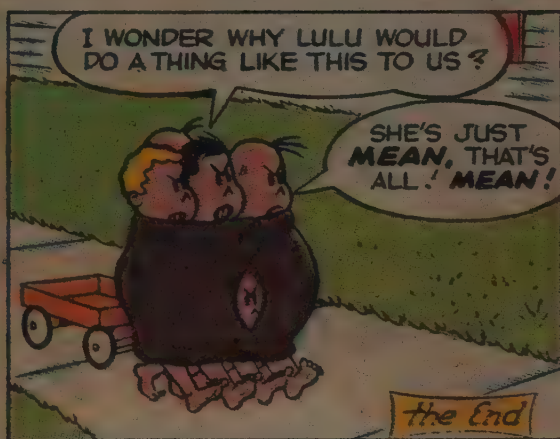
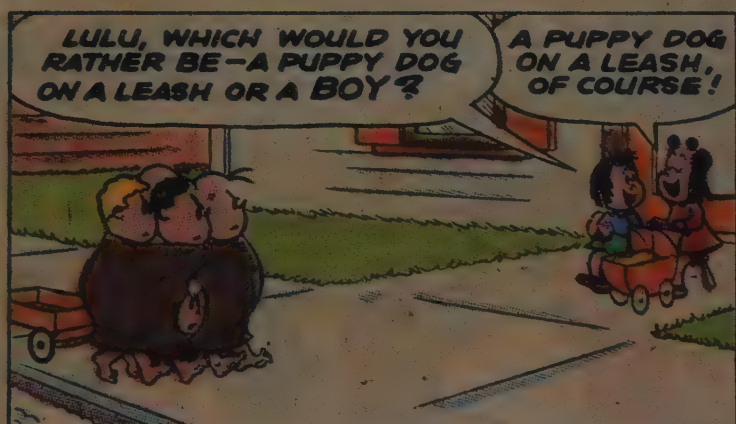
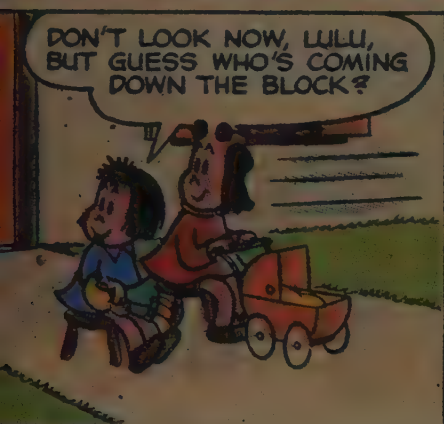








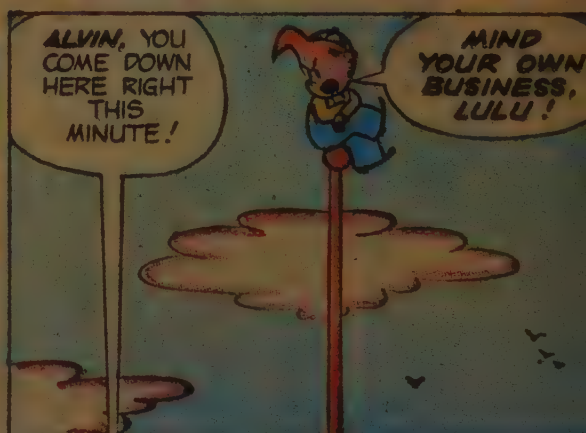
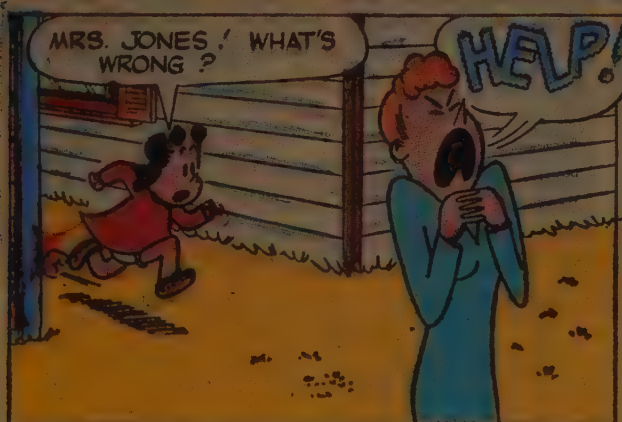
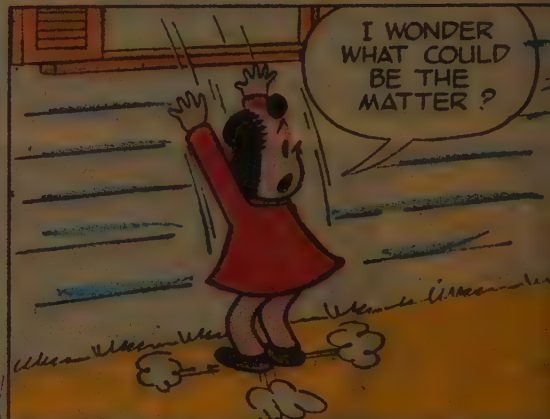
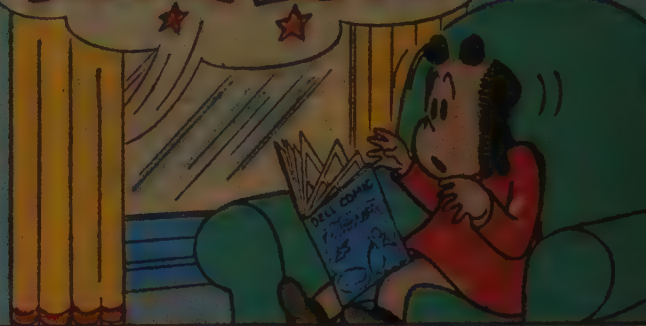


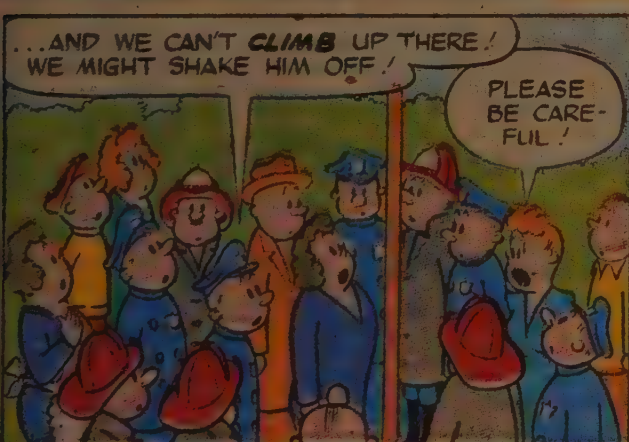
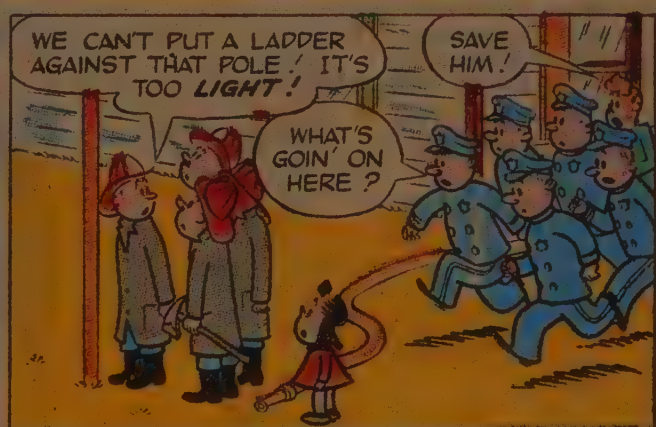
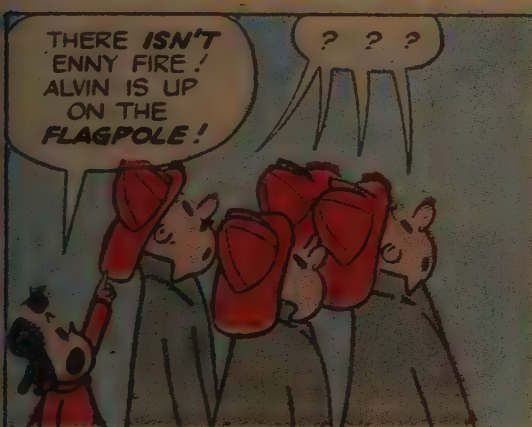
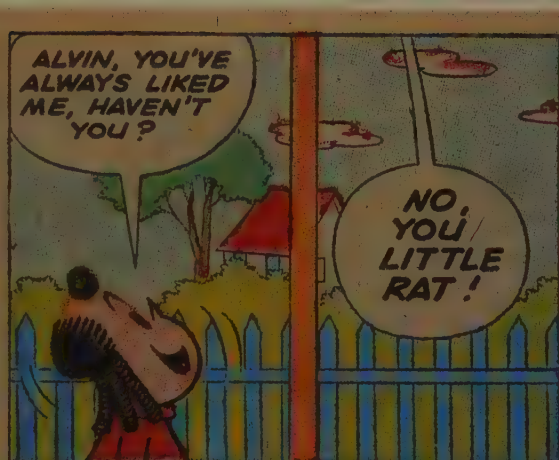
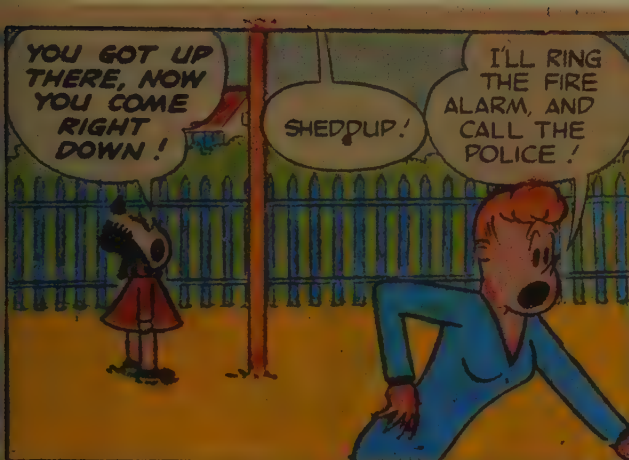


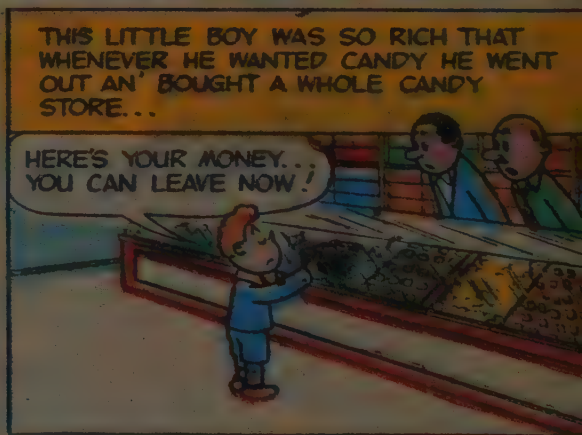
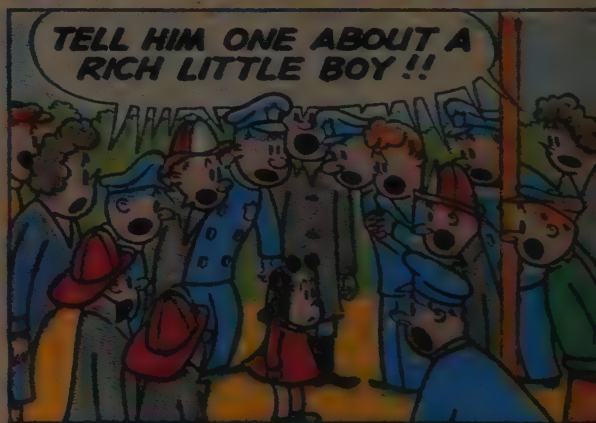
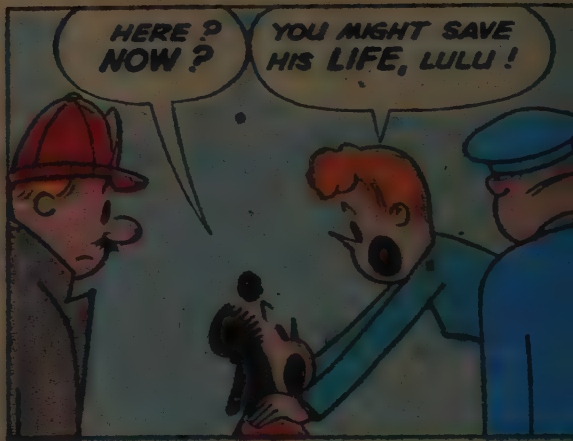
marge's
Little Lulu

THE LITTLE
RICH BOY

SCREECH!



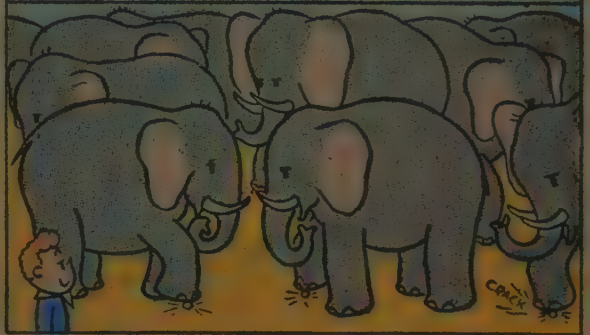




WHEN HE WANTED WALNUTS HE BOUGHT
A WHOLE WAREHOUSE FULL OF THEM...



... AND THEN HE BOUGHT A HERD OF
ELEPHANTS TO CRACK THE WALNUTS
FOR HIM...



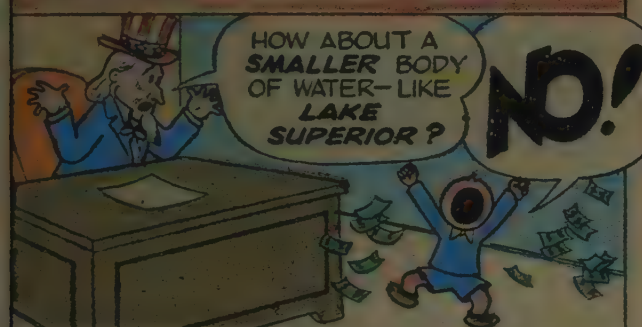
HE EVEN TRIED TO BUY THE **ATLANTIC OCEAN**
TO SAIL HIS SAILBOAT IN!



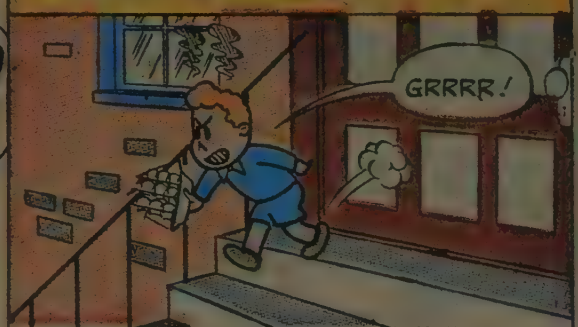
AFTER BUYING IT, HE WAS GOING TO
MAKE ALL THE OTHER SHIPS GET OFF
OF IT BECAUSE THEY MIGHT BUMP INTO
HIS SAILBOAT!



BUT UNCLE SAM WOULDN'T SELL HIM THE
ATLANTIC OCEAN BECAUSE HE SAID HE
MIGHT NEED IT ONCE IN A WHILE...



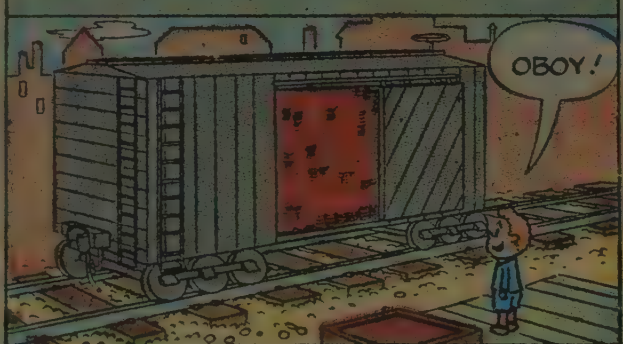
THIS MADE HIM AWFUL MAD, AND FOR
A LITTLE WHILE HE WAS **VERY** ANGRY
WITH THE UNITED STATES...



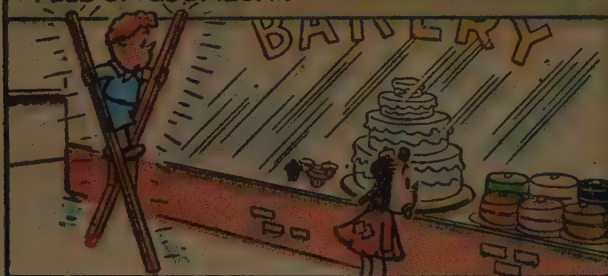
BUT HE GOT EVEN BY GIVING THE
UNITED STATES A GOOD BEATING WITH
THE BIGGEST STICK HE COULD FIND!



AFTER THAT HE FELT BETTER AND
WENT AND BOUGHT HIMSELF A FREIGHT
CAR FULL OF YO-YOS...



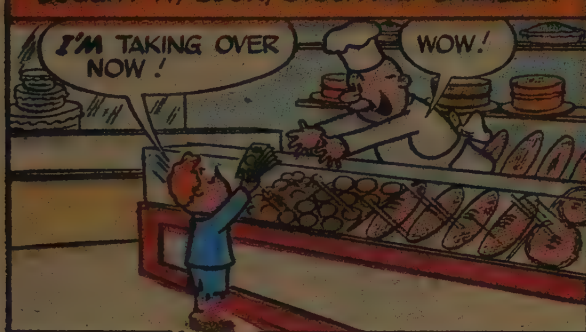
ONE DAY WHILE THIS VERY RICH LITTLE BOY WAS STROLLING DOWN THE STREET ON A PAIR OF GOLD-PLATED STILTS, HE SAW A POOR RAGGEDY LITTLE ORPHAN GIRL LOOKING INTO A BAKERY STORE WINDOW FULL OF GOODIES...



HE FELT AWFUL BAD FOR THE POOR LITTLE GIRL BECAUSE SHE DIDN'T HAVE ANY MONEY TO BUY ANYTHING, AND COULD ONLY LOOK AT THE THINGS IN THE WINDOW...



SO HE GOT RIGHT DOWN OFF HIS STILTS, WALKED INTO THE BAKERY STORE AND BOUGHT IT, LOCK, STOCK AND BARREL...



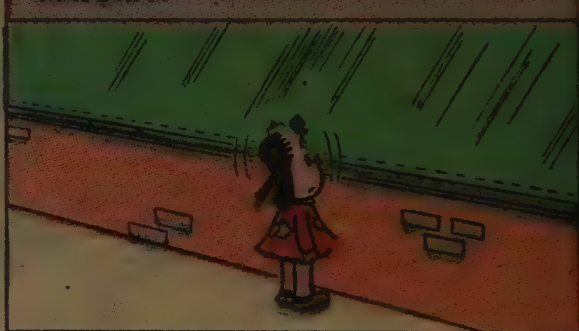
THEN HE CLIMBED INTO THE WINDOW WHERE ALL THE TASTIEST BUNS AND CAKES WERE...



STANDING ON TOP OF A BIG WEDDING CAKE, HE COULD JUST BARELY REACH THE BIG WINDOW SHADE...



IN A TWINKLING HE PULLED THE SHADE DOWN TO THE VERY BOTTOM OF THE WINDOW...



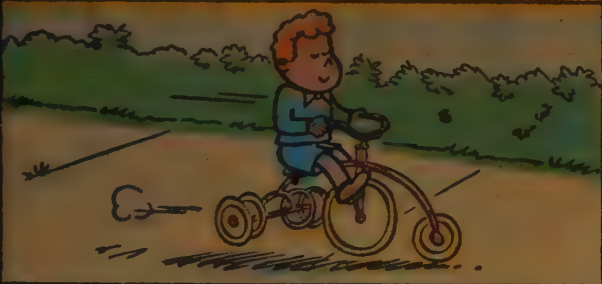
THEN HE WALKED OUT OF THE STORE AND LOCKED THE DOOR...



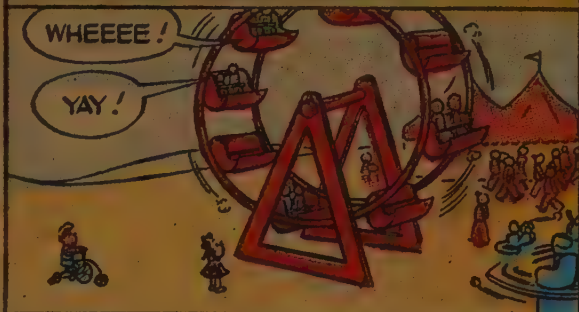
AS HE STROLLED DOWN THE STREET ON HIS GOLD-PLATED STILTS, HE FELT VERY HAPPY, BECAUSE NOW THE POOR LITTLE GIRL WOULDN'T HAVE TO LOOK AT THINGS SHE COULDN'T BUY...



LATER, THE LITTLE BOY WAS RIDING DOWN THE STREET ON HIS SIX-WHEEL CYCLE (HE DIDN'T LIKE **THREE**-WHEEL CYCLES BECAUSE **ANY** KID COULD HAVE ONE OF THOSE)...



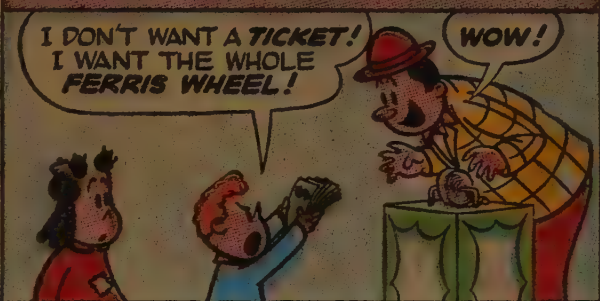
JUST AS HE WAS PASSING AN AMUSEMENT PARK HE SAW THE POOR LITTLE GIRL AGAIN—SHE WAS STARING UP AT THE HUGE FERRIS WHEEL...



THE POOR LITTLE GIRL WISHED VERY MUCH THAT SHE WAS RIDING ON IT WITH ALL THE OTHER HAPPY KIDS...



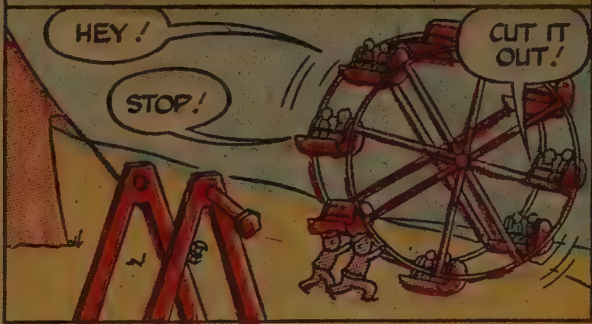
THE RICH LITTLE BOY FELT **VERY** SORRY FOR HER! HE GOT RIGHT DOWN OFF HIS SIX-WHEEL CYCLE AND BOUGHT THE FERRIS WHEEL...



THEN HE GOT SOME MEN TO UNSCREW THE BOLT THAT HELD THE FERRIS WHEEL...



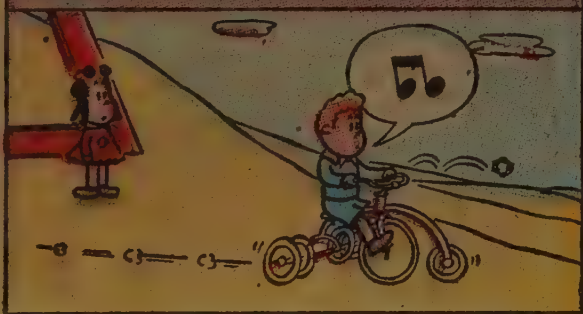
WHEN THE FERRIS WHEEL WAS FREE HE ORDERED THE MEN TO PUSH IT DOWN THE HILL...



NOW THE POOR LITTLE GIRL WOULDN'T HAVE TO LOOK LONGINGLY AT THE FERRIS WHEEL...



THIS GOOD DEED MADE THE RICH LITTLE BOY **VERY** HAPPY... HE GOT BACK ON HIS SIX-WHEEL CYCLE AND RODE OFF WHISTLING A MERRY TUNE...



NOW DON'T THINK THE POOR LITTLE GIRL DIDN'T NOTICE ALL THE GOOD DEEDS THE RICH LITTLE BOY WAS DOING FOR HER...



SHE WAS VERY GRATEFUL... SO GRATEFUL THAT SHE JUST COULDN'T HELP FALLING IN LOVE WITH THE RICH LITTLE BOY...



SHE FELL SO MUCH IN LOVE WITH HIM THAT SHE FOLLOWED HIM AROUND WHEREVER HE WENT...

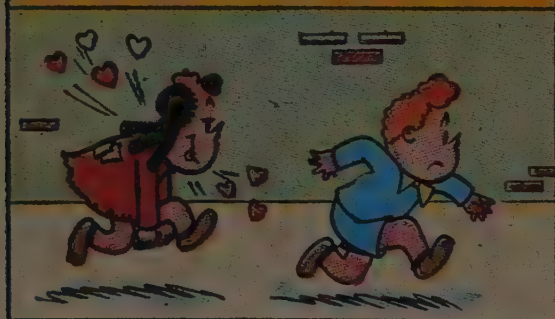


BUT THE RICH LITTLE BOY WAS VERY ANNOYED... HE TOLD HER IF SHE DIDN'T STOP FOLLOWING HIM AROUND HE'D GIVE HER SUCH A SOCK—

OH, YOU'RE SO KIND! BUT COULDN'T YOU GIVE ME **TWO** OF THEM? **BOTH** MY SOCKS ARE ALL HOLES!



THIS DIDN'T STOP THE LITTLE GIRL AT ALL—SHE WAS EVEN MORE IN LOVE WITH HIM THAN **BEFORE**!



FINALLY THE RICH LITTLE BOY WAS SO ANNOYED THAT HE DECIDED TO GO TO THE POLICE STATION...



HE WANTED THE POLICEMEN TO ARREST THE LITTLE GIRL AND PUT HER IN JAIL FOR THE REST OF HER LIFE...



...AT FIRST THE POLICEMEN WOULDN'T DO IT... BUT THEY CHANGED THEIR MINDS WHEN THE RICH LITTLE BOY PULLED OUT A BIG BUNDLE OF MONEY AND BOUGHT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT!



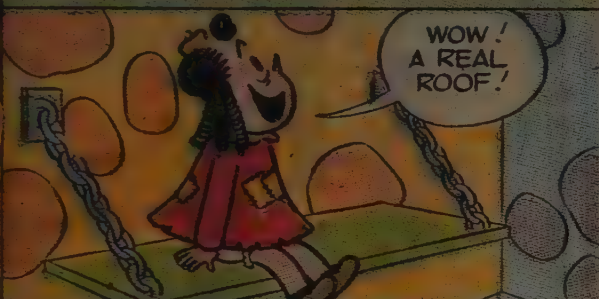
RIGHT AWAY THE POLICEMEN SAW THEIR DUTY AND QUICKLY SNAPPED FOUR PAIRS OF HANDCUFFS, SIX PAIRS OF LEGCUFFS AND ONE PAIR OF EARCUFFS ON HER...



THEN THEY DRAGGED HER PAST A LONG ROW OF CELLS AND THREW HER INTO A LITTLE GIRL'S CELL...



THE POOR LITTLE GIRL WAS VERY HAPPY! THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME IN HER LIFE SHE EVER HAD A ROOF OVER HER HEAD!



THIS WAS **ANOTHER** GOOD DEED THE RICH KIND LITTLE BOY HAD DONE FOR HER... **GOSH**, HOW SHE LOVED HIM NOW!



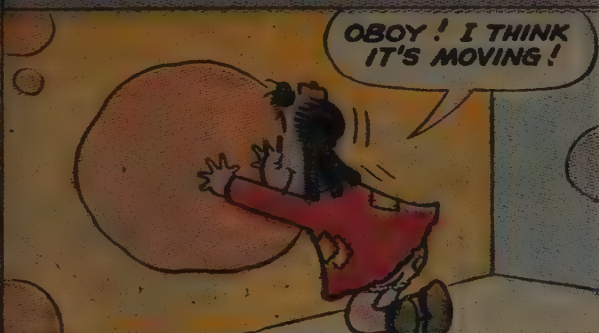
SHE LOVED HIM **SO** MUCH THAT SHE WAS WILLING TO SACRIFICE THE ROOF OVER HER HEAD JUST TO FOLLOW HIM AROUND...



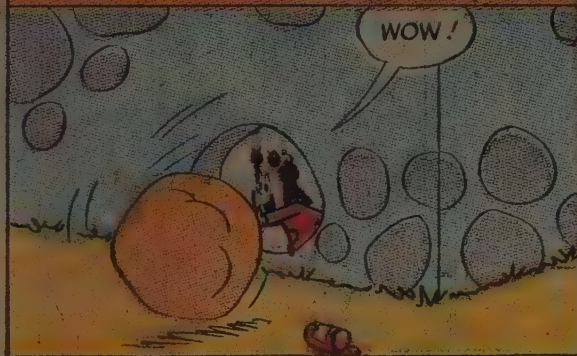
SO SHE GOT RIGHT TO WORK WITH THE LITTLE METAL END OF HER SHOELACE AND BEGAN PICKING AWAY AT A HUGE STONE IN THE WALL...



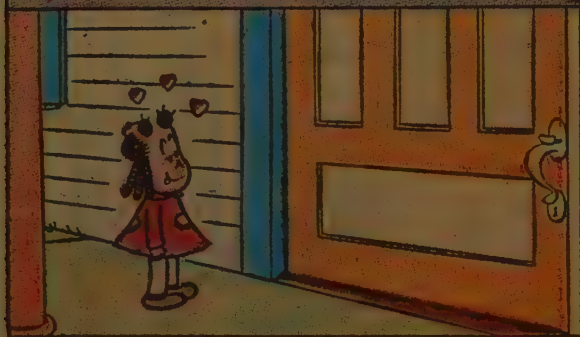
SHE WORKED ALL NIGHT PICKING AWAY AT THE STONE... NEXT MORNING THE STONE WAS LOOSE...



WITH ONE GOOD SHOVE THE LITTLE GIRL WAS FREE...



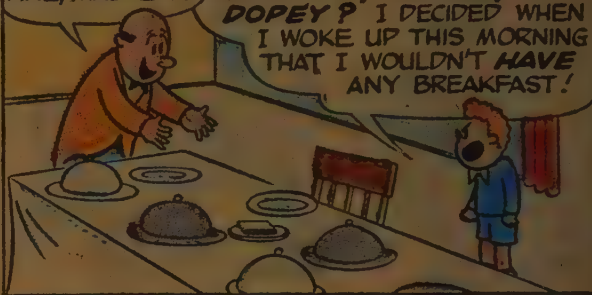
IN A LITTLE WHILE SHE WAS STANDING OUTSIDE THE DOOR OF THE GREAT BIG HOUSE THE LITTLE BOY LIVED IN...



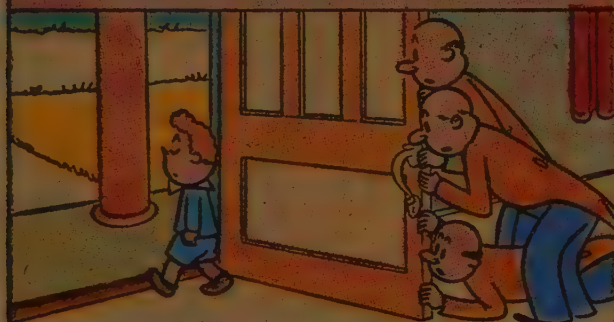
THE LITTLE BOY HAD JUST COME DOWN FROM HIS ROOM...

THERE YOU ARE, MASTER!

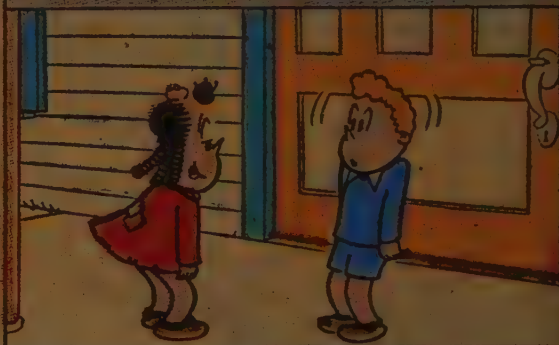
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU, ANYWAY, DOPEY? I DECIDED WHEN I WOKE UP THIS MORNING THAT I WOULDN'T HAVE ANY BREAKFAST!



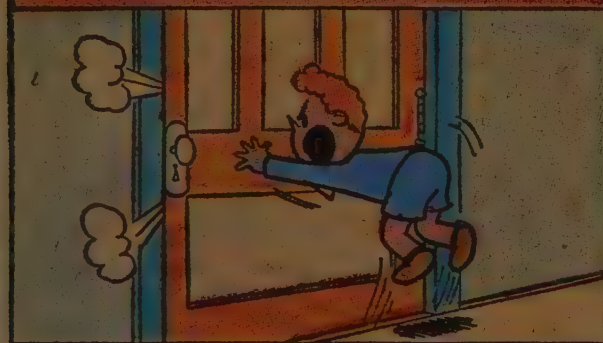
THREE BUTLERS OPENED THE BIG FRONT DOOR FOR HIM AND HE STEPPED OUT ON THE PORCH...



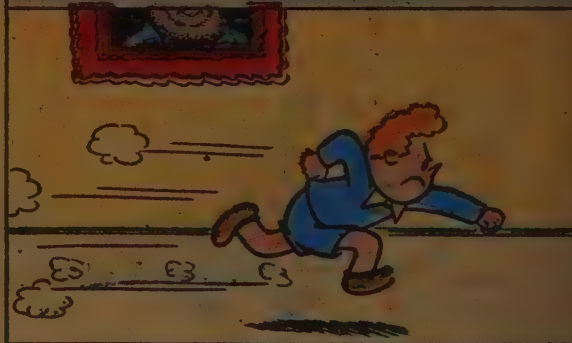
GOSH, HE WAS SURPRISED WHEN HE SAW THE POOR LITTLE GIRL AGAIN.



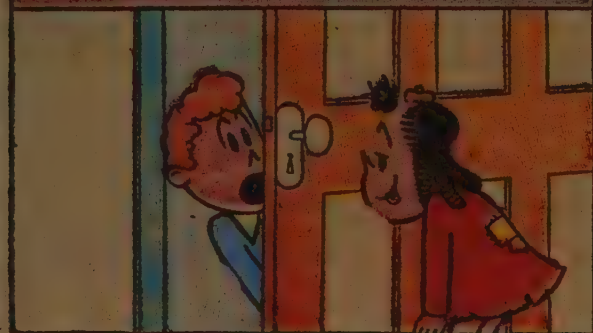
HE RUSHED RIGHT BACK INTO THE HOUSE AND SLAMMED THE DOOR...



AS QUICK AS HE COULD HE RAN TO THE BACK DOOR...



BUT WHEN HE PEEKED OUT THE BACK DOOR THERE WAS THE LITTLE GIRL AGAIN!



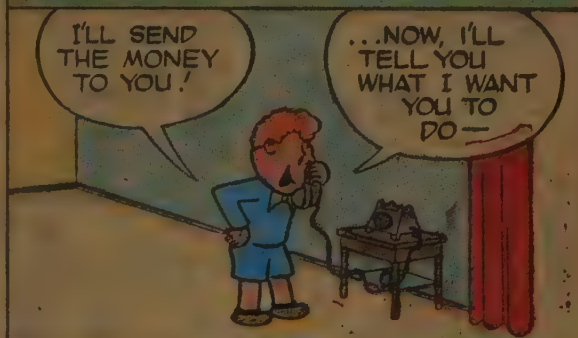
HE SLAMMED THE DOOR, FELL ON THE FLOOR AND HAD A GOOD TANTRUM FOR HIMSELF!



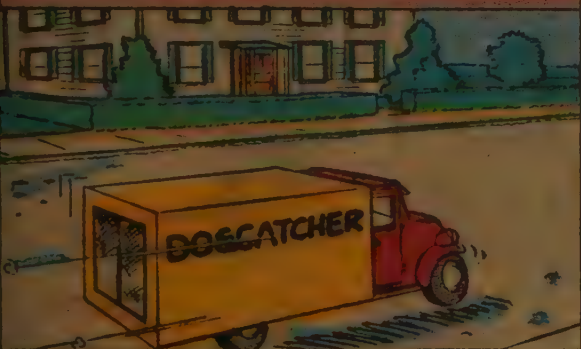
WHEN HE QUIETED DOWN HE WENT TO THE TELEPHONE AND CALLED THE DOG-CATCHERS...



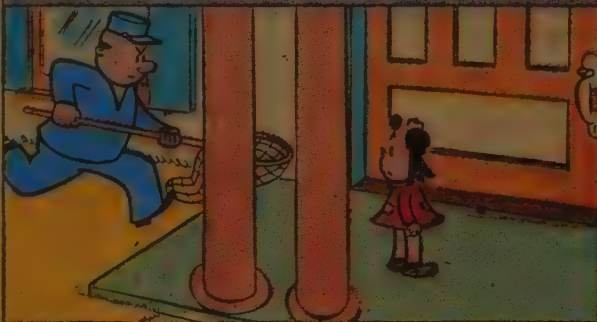
IN A FEW SECONDS HE WAS THE SOLE OWNER OF THE DOG-CATCHERS' DEPARTMENT!



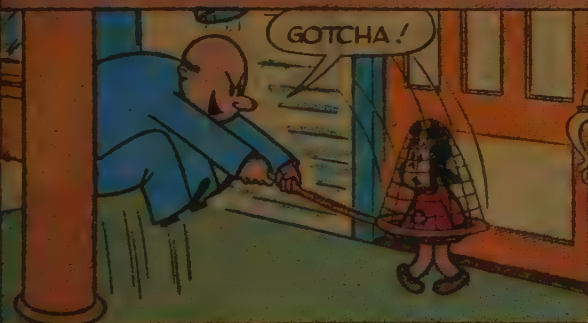
FIVE MINUTES LATER A DOG-CATCHERS' TRUCK DROVE UP TO THE DOOR...



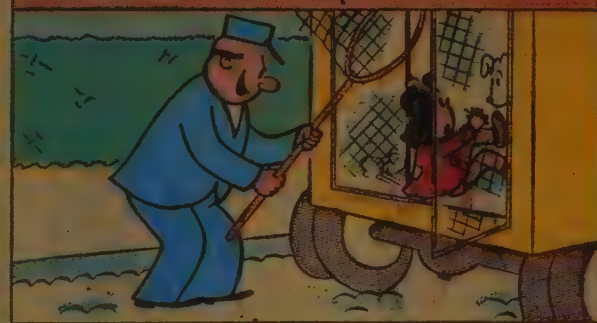
A DOGCATCHER JUMPED OUT OF THE TRUCK AND RAN AROUND TO THE BACK OF THE BIG HOUSE...



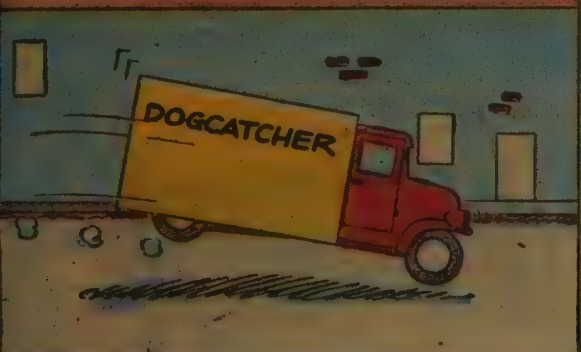
...NEXT THING THE POOR LITTLE GIRL KNEW, A NET WAS THROWN OVER HER HEAD...



THEN SHE WAS CARRIED TO THE TRUCK AND DUMPED INTO THE BACK WITH A BUNCH OF STRAY DOGS...



THEN THE TRUCK RACED OFF TO THE DOG POUND WITH HER...



WHEN THEY GOT TO THE DOG POUND THE LITTLE GIRL WAS THROWN INTO A BIG CAGE THAT WAS FULL OF ALL KINDS OF DOGS...



GOSH, SHE WAS HAPPY! SHE LOVED DOGS, ALL KINDS OF DOGS...AND SHE WAS SURE THAT THIS WAS **ANOTHER** GOOD DEED THE KIND LITTLE BOY HAD DONE FOR HER...



BUT, THOUGH SHE LOVED DOGS VERY MUCH, SHE LOVED THE KIND LITTLE RICH BOY EVEN **MORE!**

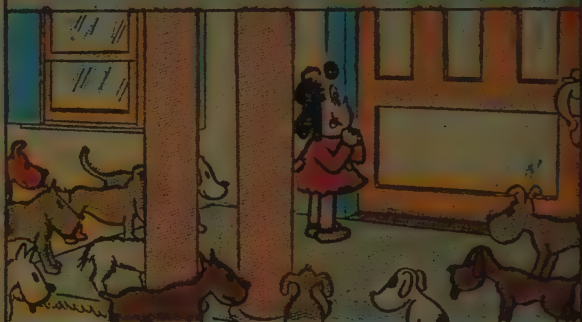


I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!

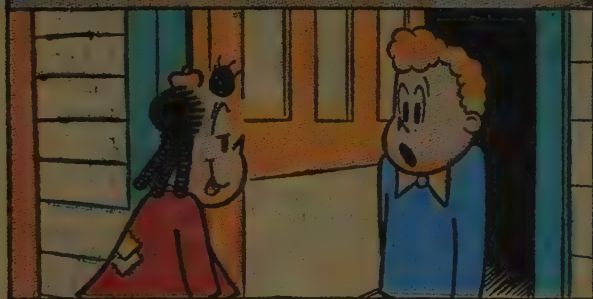
SO, THAT NIGHT WHEN THE GUARD WAS ASLEEP SHE PICKED THE LOCK ON THE CAGE WITH A HAIRPIN AND TIP TOED TO THE BACK DOOR...



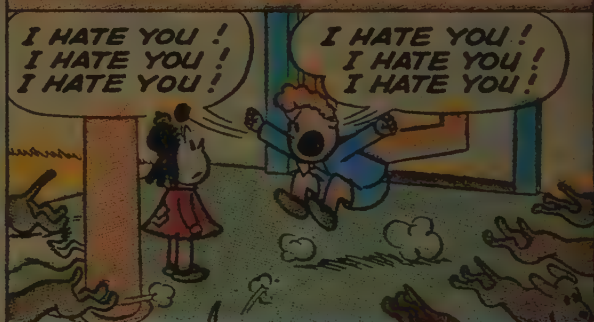
NEXT MORNING SHE WAS WAITING AT THE FRONT DOOR OF THE RICH LITTLE BOY'S HOUSE...



WHEN THE LITTLE BOY OPENED THE DOOR AND SAW THE LITTLE GIRL AGAIN HE ALMOST FAINTED FROM SURPRISE...



HE SCREAMED AND HOLLERED AT HER AND TOLD HER HOW MUCH HE HATED HER...



I HATE YOU !
I HATE YOU !
I HATE YOU !

I HATE YOU !
I HATE YOU !
I HATE YOU !

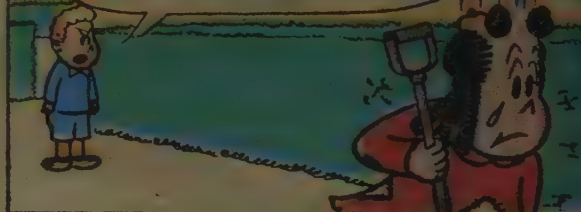
THEN HE TOLD HER TO GO DIG A DEEP, DEEP HOLE AND CRAWL INTO IT...

...AND I'LL BE GLAD TO LEND YOU THE **SHOVEL!**



GOSH, THE POOR LITTLE GIRL WAS SHOCKED! THERE WAS NOTHING ELSE FOR HER TO DO BUT GO DIG A DEEP, DEEP HOLE AND CRAWL INTO IT...

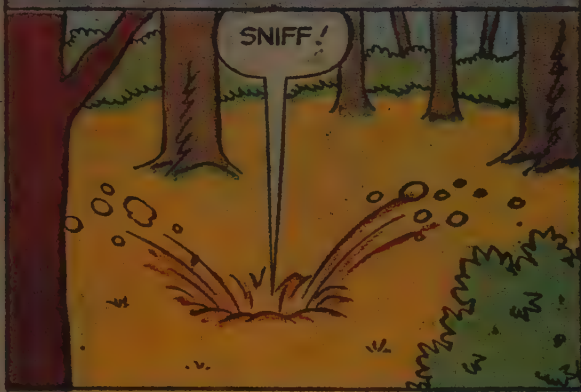
...AND DON'T FORGET TO RETURN THE SHOVEL!



SO SHE WENT TO A LONELY PLACE IN THE WOODS AND STARTED TO DIG...



DAY AND NIGHT SHE DUG...



UNTIL FINALLY SHE DECIDED SHE WAS ALMOST DEEP ENOUGH... SHE DUG ONE LAST SHOVELFUL AND—



SUDDENLY SHE WAS SHOT HIGH INTO THE AIR! SHE HAD **STRUCK OIL!**



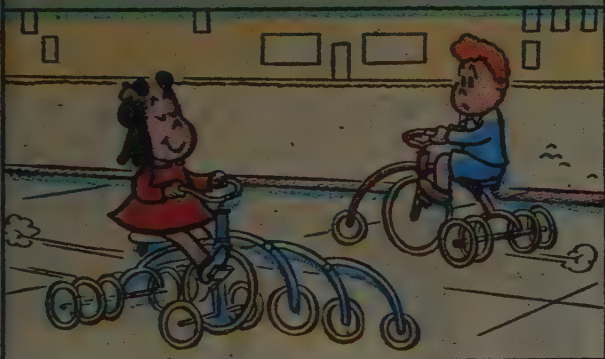
THE LITTLE GIRL WAS **RICH!** NOW SHE COULD BUY ANYTHING SHE WANTED!



THE FIRST THING SHE DID WAS BUY A GREAT BIG HOTEL SO THAT SHE COULD TAKE A BATH AND WASH ALL THE THICK BLACK OIL OFF HERSELF.



THEN SHE BOUGHT A **TWELVE WHEEL** CYCLE...



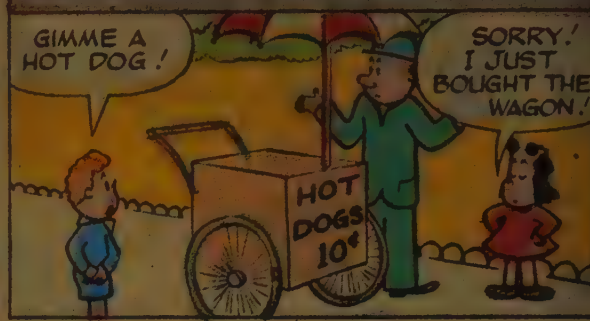
AND A PAIR OF **SOLID GOLD** STILTS...



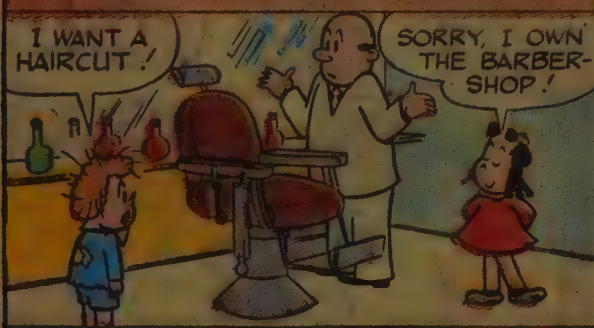
SHE WAS EVEN **RICHER** THAN THE RICH LITTLE BOY, AND SHE COULD BUY THINGS **HE** COULDN'T BUY...



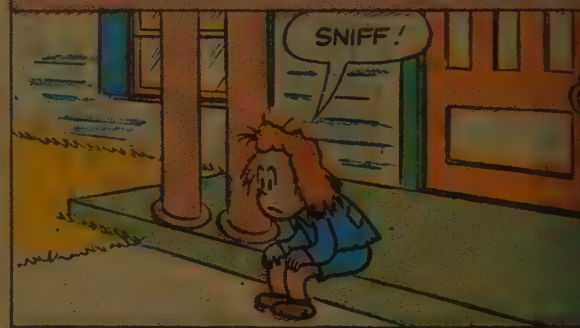
AND WHENEVER THE RICH LITTLE BOY WENT TO BUY ANYTHING THE RICH LITTLE GIRL WOULD RUSH AHEAD OF HIM AND BUY IT FIRST...



THE RICH LITTLE BOY JUST COULDN'T BUY **ANYTHING**! WHEREVER HE WENT THE RICH LITTLE GIRL WAS THERE FIRST!



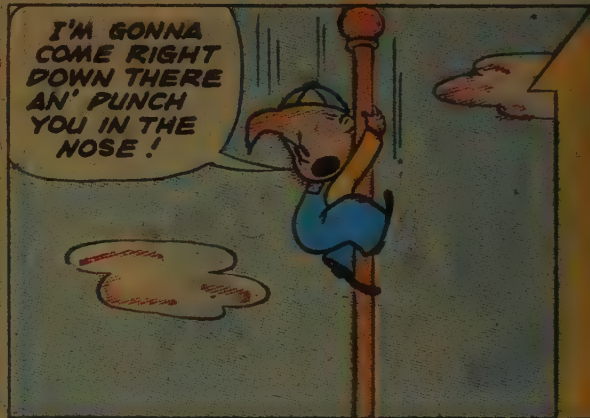
AND THOUGH HE HAD LOTS AND LOTS OF MONEY, HE WAS JUST AS POOR AS THE VERY RICH LITTLE GIRL **USED** TO BE.



...AND THAT'S THE END OF THE STORY, ALVIN!



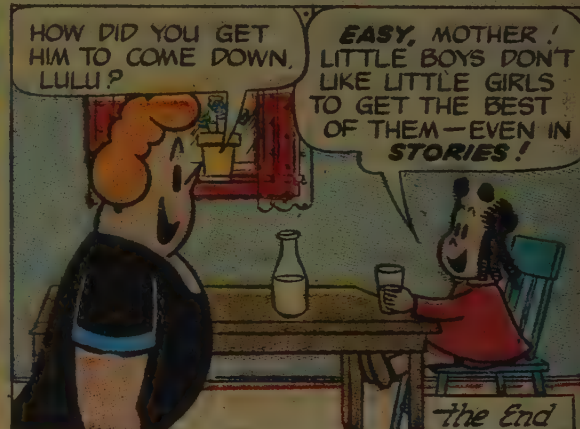
I'M GONNA COME RIGHT DOWN THERE AN' PUNCH YOU IN THE NOSE!



GRAB HIM!



HOW DID YOU GET HIM TO COME DOWN, LULU?

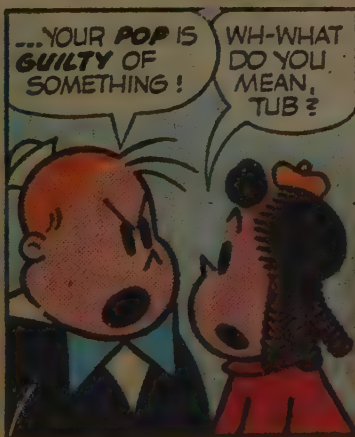
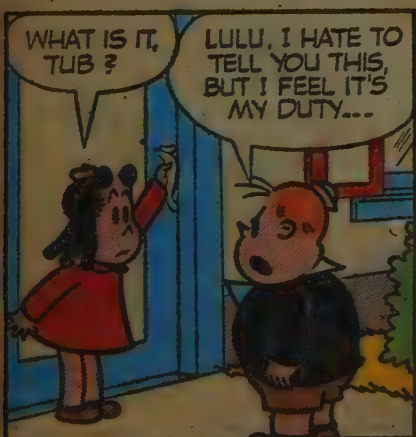
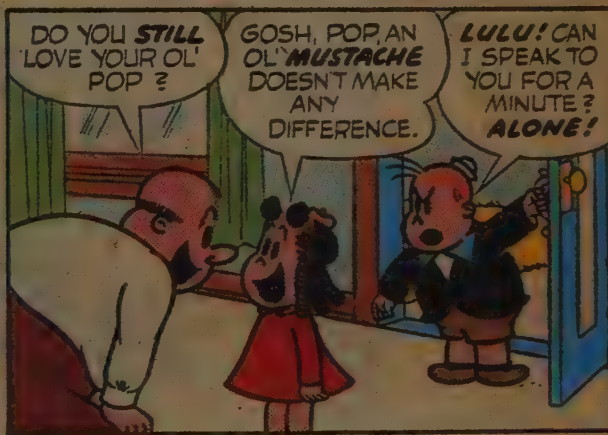
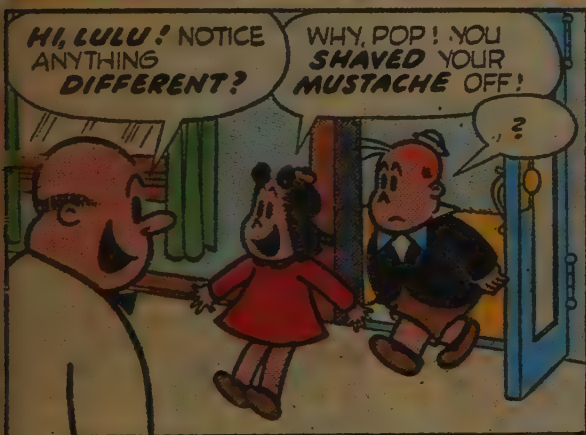
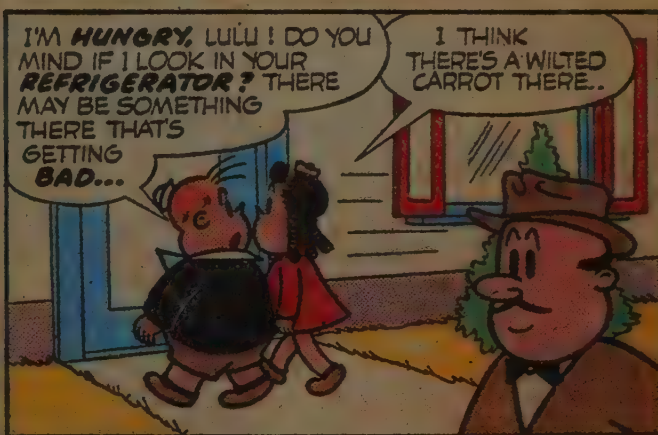
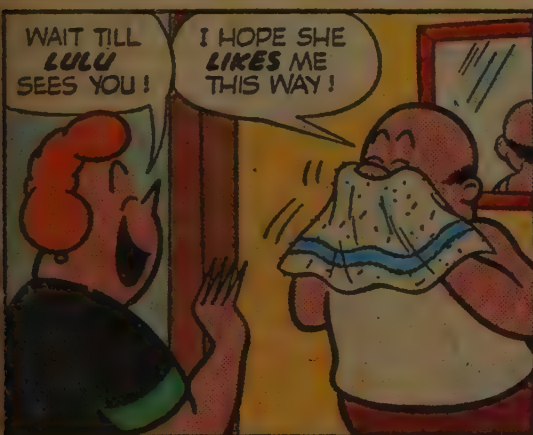


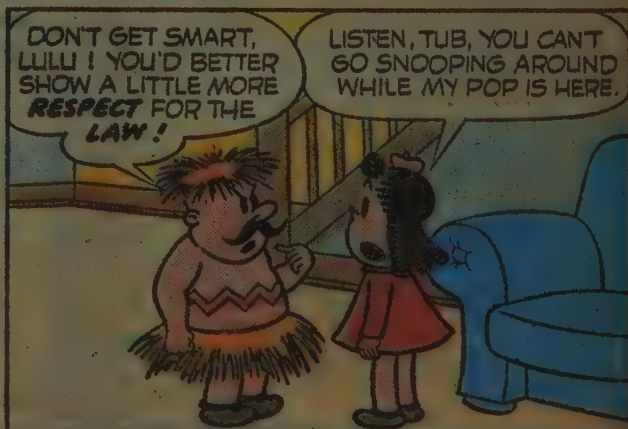
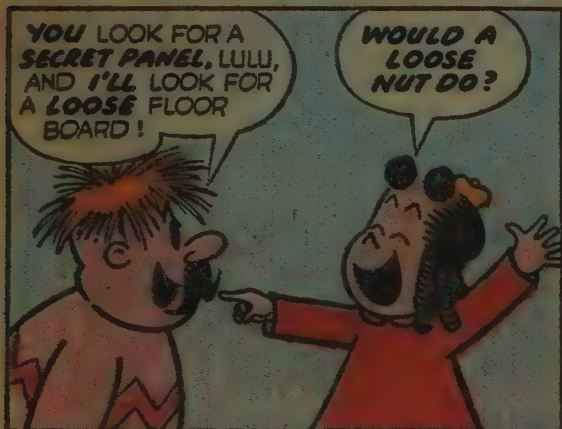
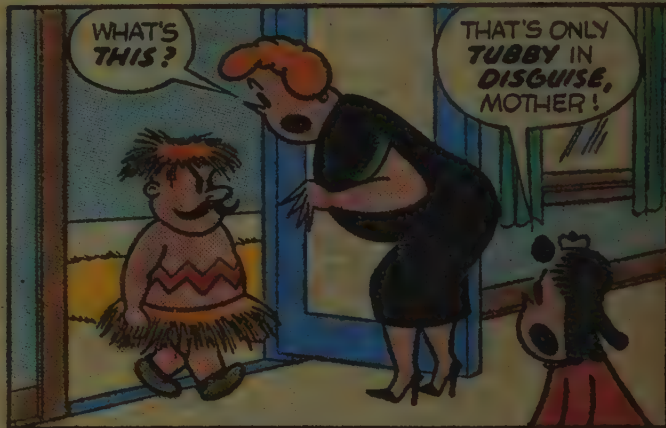
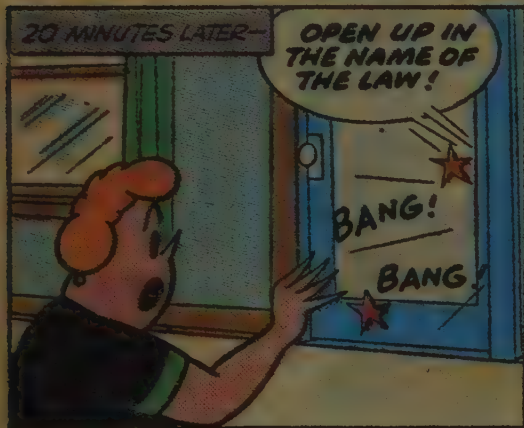
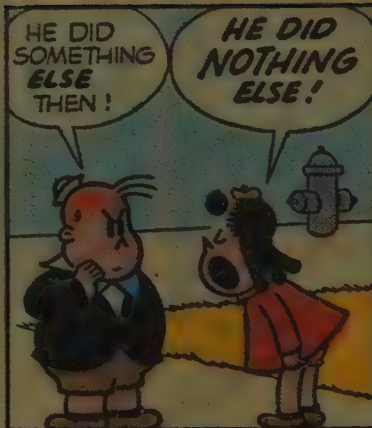
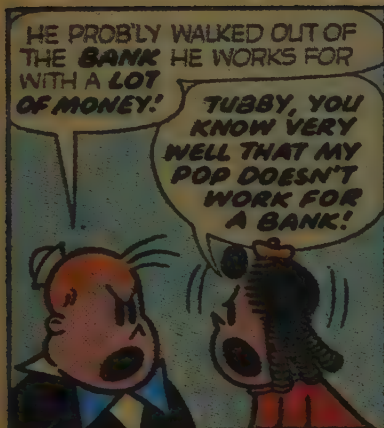
Marge's Little Lulu

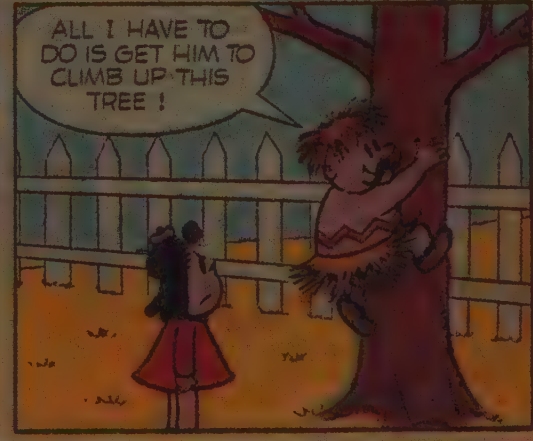
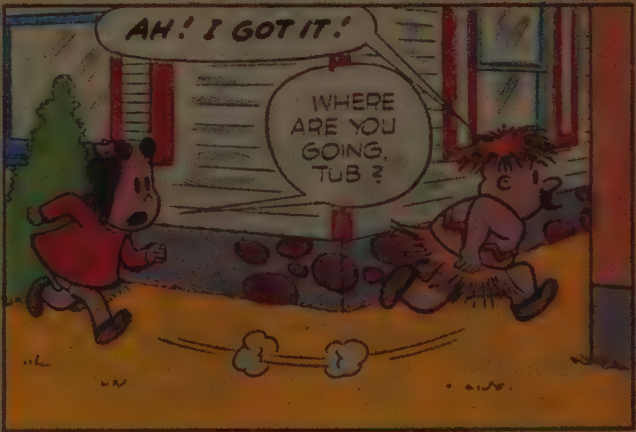
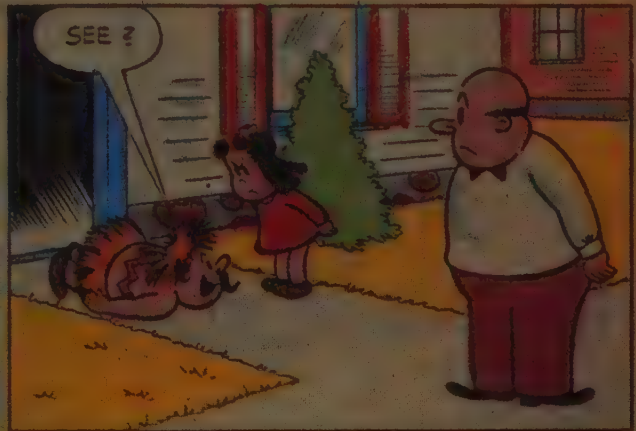
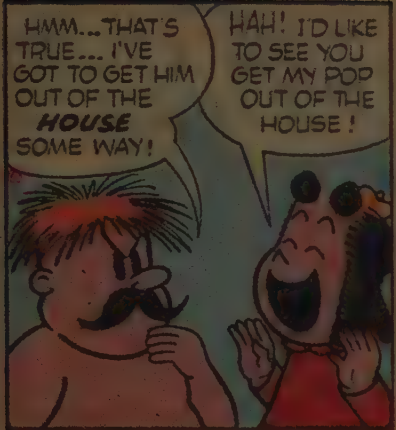
the "Spider" spins again

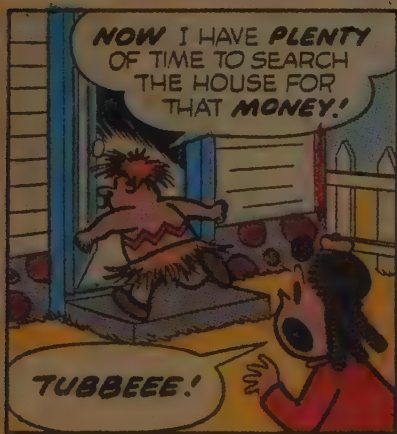
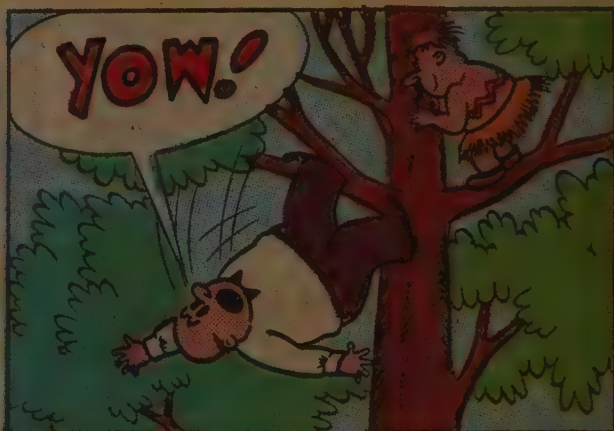
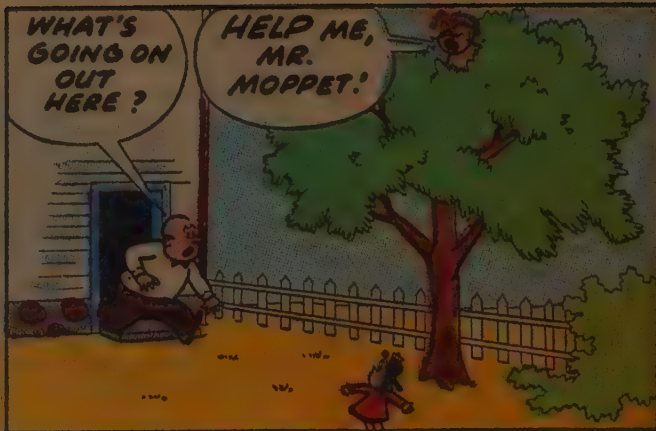
OH, GEORGE ! YOU LOOK SO **DIFFERENT** WITH YOUR MUSTACHE SHAVED OFF!

MAKES ME LOOK **YOUNGER**, DON'T YOU THINK ?





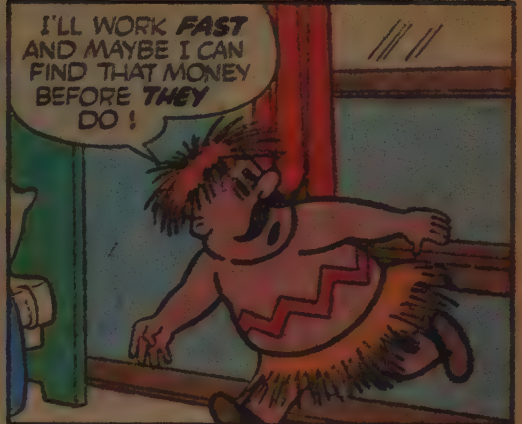




GOSH! THE **POLICE!** THEY'VE GOT SOME **NERVE!** THIS IS **MY CASE!**



I'LL WORK **FAST** AND MAYBE I CAN FIND THAT **MONEY** BEFORE **THEY** DO!



FELLOW **YOUR AGE** OUGHT TO LEAVE THE **TREE** CLIMBING TO **LITTLE BOYS!**

EASY! EASY!



STOP! STOP! LET HIM GO!



HE'S **INNOCENT!** I SEARCHED THE HOUSE FROM **TOP TO BOTTOM** AN' **DIDN'T** FIND A **THING!**



SEE THAT, **LULU?** ONE WORD FROM **ME** AND THEY LET HIM GO!

I-I'M GOING TO LIE DOWN FOR A WHILE!



THE '**SPIDER**' SPINS AGAIN!



THE END

About “Donald Duck” and Carl Barks

In the late 1930s, the Walt Disney characters were appearing not in a comic book but in a children’s magazine called the *Mickey Mouse Magazine*. In 1940, this magazine was converted into a monthly comic book called *Walt Disney’s Comics and Stories*; it was the first of dozens of comic books based on animated-cartoon characters. The comic books with major characters like Donald Duck, Bugs Bunny, Woody Woodpecker, and Tom and Jerry were produced by Western Printing and Lithographing Company and published under the Dell label. Other publishers used less popular characters, like Mighty Mouse and the Fox and the Crow, or invented their own. The “funny animal” comic books, as they were often called, remained consistently popular throughout the 1940s and 1950s. They faded only in the 1960s, when the super-heroes made a comeback. The Disney comic books were always the most popular of the “funny animal” comic books; and of the Disney comic books, the most popular—and easily the best—were written and drawn by Carl Barks.

Barks was born in Oregon on March 27, 1901, and he passed through a variety of jobs—heating rivets in a railroad yard, editing a men’s humor magazine in Minneapolis—before going to work for the Disney Studios in 1935. He was a “story man,” thinking up gags for Donald Duck cartoons, until he left Disney in 1942 to work as a free-lance cartoonist. He started his new career by illustrating the ten-page *Donald Duck* feature for the April 1943 issue of *Walt Disney’s Comics and Stories*; for the next issue, he wrote, as well as illustrated, *Donald Duck* and he continued to write and illustrate that feature in almost every issue of *Walt Disney’s Comics* for the next twenty-three years.

Barks of course never signed his work, but his crisp, precise drawing style was so distinctive—in comic books otherwise filled with soft, broad drawings—that he was recognized by many children as “the good artist.” Barks’s *Donald Duck*—the lead story in each issue of *Walt Disney’s Comics*—was so popular that when Barks was taken off the feature in 1950 to handle stories in other Disney comic books, reader protests quickly led to his reinstatement. At one point in the early 1950s, *Walt Disney’s Comics* was selling three million copies per issue, making it one of the most successful comic books ever published; and a very large part of that success was due to Barks.

During his first ten years in comic books, Barks also wrote and illustrated longer stories—usually thirty-two pages—for the *Donald Duck* comic book. Most of these stories were comic adventures—mixtures of laughter and thrills. Barks sent Donald and his three nephews, Huey,

Dewey, and Louie, to many exotic places, like the jungles of Africa, the outback of Australia, and the desolate moors of Scotland. The best-remembered of these stories is probably *Lost in the Andes*, in which Donald and his nephews went to South America in search of mysterious square eggs. Deep in the Andes, they found not only the eggs but a block-shaped race of people who spoke in the accents of the American Deep South and called their homeland "Plain Awful."

When he started writing and drawing *Donald Duck*, Barks had only Donald and his nephews (and occasionally Donald's girlfriend, Daisy) to work with. For one 1947 story in *Donald Duck*, Barks gave Donald a wealthy, miserly uncle, Scrooge McDuck. Scrooge was a supporting character in the *Donald Duck* stories for the next few years; he was always trying to get more money or protect what he had, and this made him a fertile source of plot ideas. Scrooge finally became so popular that he was given his own comic book in 1952. Like the Barks issues of *Donald Duck*, the quarterly *Uncle Scrooge* combined comedy and adventure; Scrooge's money could—and did—take the ducks any place, from the sunken continent of Atlantis to outer space. *Uncle Scrooge* was tremendously successful, outselling those Disney comic books with characters—like Mickey Mouse—who were more famous but who did not have the good fortune to have their adventures recounted by Carl Barks.

Along the way, Barks created other characters who became more or less established residents of the Disney universe: Donald's incredibly lucky cousin, Gladstone Gander; the eccentric inventor, Gyro Gearloose (a chicken); the Junior Woodchucks of the World (a spoof of the Boy Scouts); the villainous Beagle Boys; the sorceress Magica de Spell.

Barks's stories were so popular, and so good, because he took pains where most writers and cartoonists for "funny animal" comic books did not. He used the ducks in everything from purest slapstick to hair-raising adventures that had only a light flavoring of comedy—but always, he worked to give his stories plausibility. Plausibility in the way the plots and gags were constructed, in the detailed and accurately drawn settings (he made sure that an ancient Persian city *looked* like an ancient Persian city), and above all, in the way his characters talked and behaved. Barks's characters were never puppets; the ducks were always propelled by passions so comically powerful that they could scarcely be contained even within exaggerated faces and bodies. In Barks's stories, the world is very different from the one we know—it is a world of talking ducks, and of huge

“money bins” filled with Scrooge’s coins and greenbacks—but “duck nature” is really human nature, and very much the same as in our own world. It was by making his characters so completely recognizable as people, despite their orange beaks and webbed feet, that Barks won the devotion of so many readers.

Barks’s work was at its richest and funniest in the late 1940s and early 1950s. *Letter to Santa*, the story we have included here, was published in 1949, in the first issue of a “giant” comic book—it cost twenty-five cents, instead of the usual dime—called *Walt Disney’s Christmas Parade*. *Letter* is a rarity among Barks’s longer stories because it is not a mixture of comedy and adventure but is instead completely comic from start to finish, like most of the ten-page stories in *Walt Disney’s Comics*.

Letter to Santa was the first story with the “classic” version of Uncle Scrooge—the cranky old capitalist who is bursting with energy, and who has so much cash that it spills around his desk. In the earlier stories, Scrooge was not as rich or as egomaniacal; in later stories, after he had gotten his own comic book, Scrooge became a bit more likable but a bit less funny.

Santa Claus himself appears in *Letter to Santa*, and this is unusual, because Barks usually avoided characters who were wholly fanciful even on the terms set by the ducks’ fanciful universe. But when Barks did use such characters—Santa Claus, or a witch, or a dragon—he presented them with the same care, the same concern for plausibility, that he gave to the other elements in his stories; Barks’s Santa is one we can almost believe in. For one thing, Barks has figured out a way to get his Santa down even narrow chimneys. Note too that this Santa is a very practical fellow; he gives the nephews exactly what they want, but only that—there’s no flood of unrequested gifts. And, typically for Barks, this Santa, by his very existence, creates more problems than he solves.

Carl Barks retired from comic-book work in 1966, although he wrote a few stories for the *Junior Woodchucks* comic book until 1973. He lives now in southern California, where he has carved out a new (and successful) career as a painter in oils and water colors.

M.B.

WALT DISNEY'S Donald Duck

in
"LETTER
to
SANTA"

CHRISTMAS
EVE IN DUCKBURG!
FOR ONCE DONALD
IS UNPERTURBED!
HIS CHRISTMAS SHOPPING
PROBLEMS ARE BEING
HANDLED THIS YEAR
BY AN EXPERT—
SANTA CLAUS!

LOOK AT THAT
BIG STEAM
SHOVEL BITE
THE DIRT!

LET'S STOP
AND WATCH IT,
UNCA' DONALD!
WE'VE GOT LOTS
OF TIME!



W.D. ANNUAL 05

-4911

SANTA WON'T REACH
OUR HOUSE TILL
AROUND MIDNIGHT!

MEANWHILE WE
CAN LEARN A
LOT BY WATCHING
THIS SHOVEL
DIG!

NOTICE HOW THE MAN
PULLS THAT THIRD
LEVER WHEN HE
WANTS IT TO
SWING AROUND!

AND STEPS ON
A TRIP LEVER
WHEN HE WANTS IT
TO DUMP THE
DIRT!

COME ON! IT'S CHILLY! LET'S
GO HOME AND SIT BY THE
FIRE!

WAIT A MINUTE,
UNCLE DONALD!

WE WANT TO
SEE HOW HE
CLOSES THE
SCOOP!

WHAT MAKES YOU KIDS SO
INTERESTED IN
STEAM SHOVELS
ALL OF A SUDDEN?

OH, WE—
WELL, BECAUSE!

DID YOU MAIL OUR LETTER
TO SANTA CLAUS, UNCLE
DONALD?

THE ONE
WE WROTE
LAST WEEK!

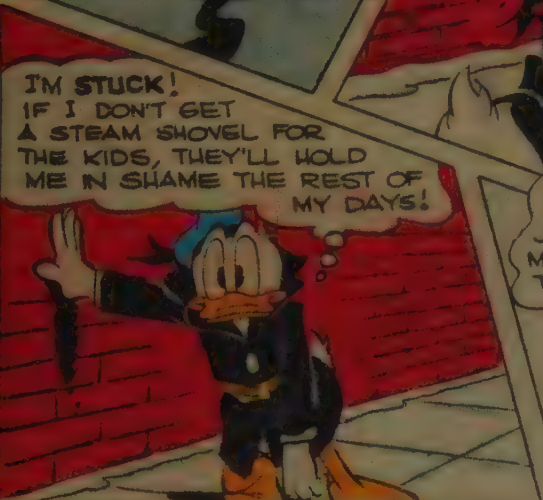
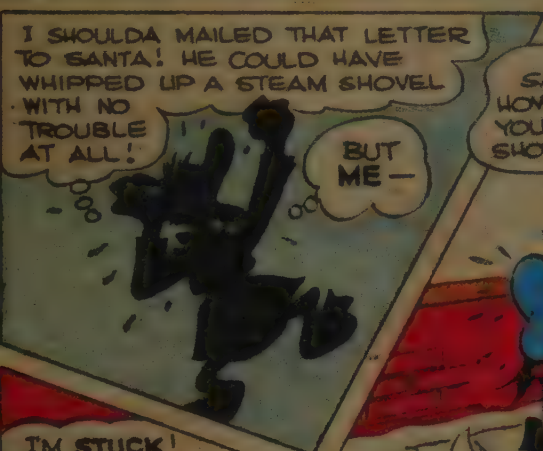
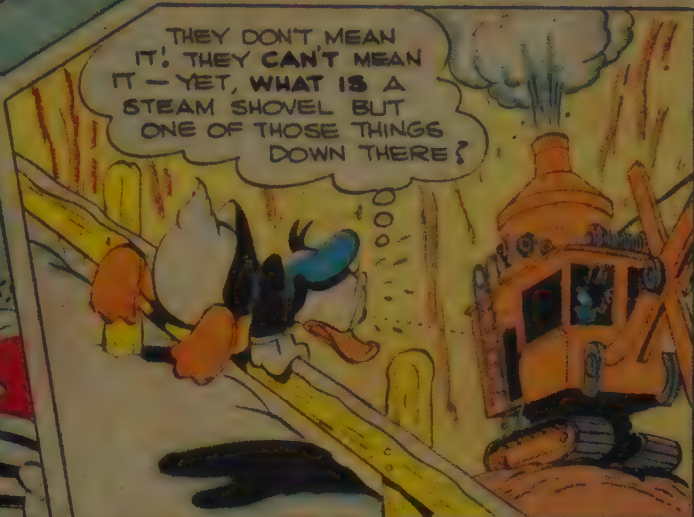
OF COURSE I MAILED IT!
DON'T THINK I WASN'T TOO HAPPY
TO LET SANTA
FURNISH YOUR
CHRISTMAS
PRESENTS!
I'M NOT
DUMB!

WELL, WE
JUST WANTED
TO BE SURE!

BECAUSE
IF SANTA

DIDN'T
GET OUR
LETTER—





SCROOGE'S
UNCLE
SCROOGE
MAY HAVE
MOUNTAINS
OF THE
OLD MOOLA
BUT—

THE NERVE OF YOU, NEPHEW!
IF I COULD AFFORD A STEAM
SHOVEL, I'D HAVE ONE IN HERE
SHOVELING THIS MONEY
OUT OF MY WAY!

AND NOT
ONLY THAT—

AW, SKIP IT, UNCLE
TIGHTWAD! HERE'S
A BUCK! GET YOURSELF
A CUP OF COFFEE AND
A HAIRCUT!

HIT ME WITH A DOLLAR,
WILL YA? HOW DOES IT
FEEL TO BE HIT WITH
A MILLION?

LIKE THAT!

SPLAT!

TOUCHE'! I ALWAYS KNEW
THESE BAGS OF MOOLA
WERE GOOD FOR
SOMETHING!

WAM

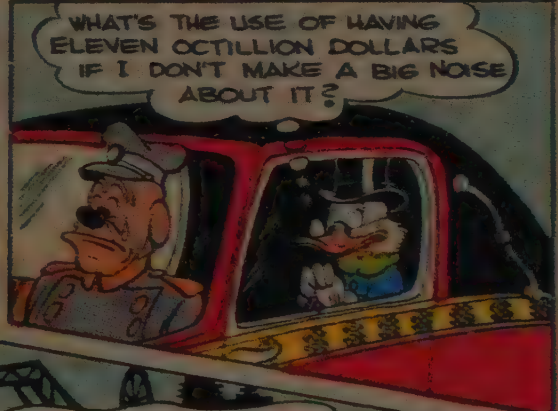
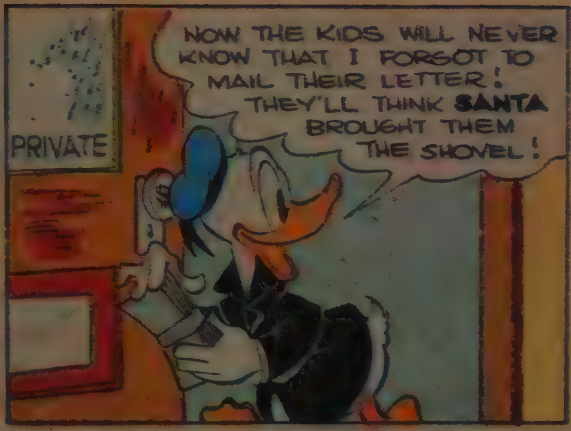
**BOP BAM
SOCK POW**

SLOW DOWN
A MINUTE,
NEPHEW!

WHAT'S ALL
THIS ARGUMENT
ABOUT,
ANYWAY?

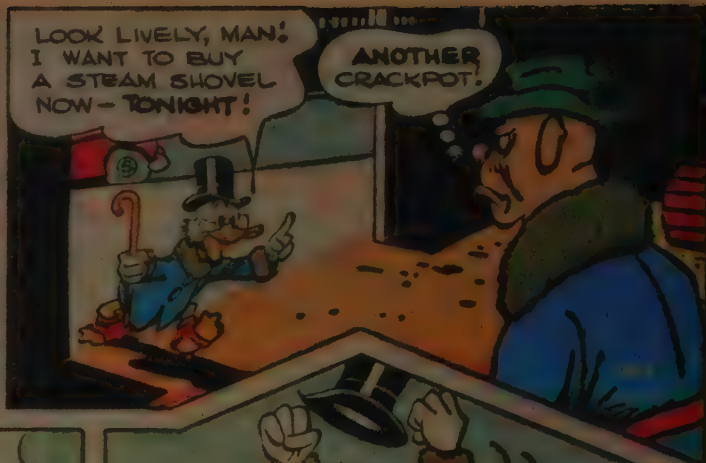
I ASKED YOU
TO BUY THE
KIDS A STEAM
SHOVEL FOR
CHRISTMAS, AND
YOU BLEW YOUR
TOP!

WELL, WHY DIDN'T YOU
SAY IT WAS CHRISTMAS?
I DON'T SPEND MY TIME
WATCHING THE CALENDAR!





I HAVEN'T
TIME TO ORDER
ANYTHING! I'VE
GOT TO FIND A
SHOVEL THAT'S
MOVABLE RIGHT
NOW!



LOOK LIVELY, MAN!
I WANT TO BUY
A STEAM SHOVEL
NOW - TONIGHT!

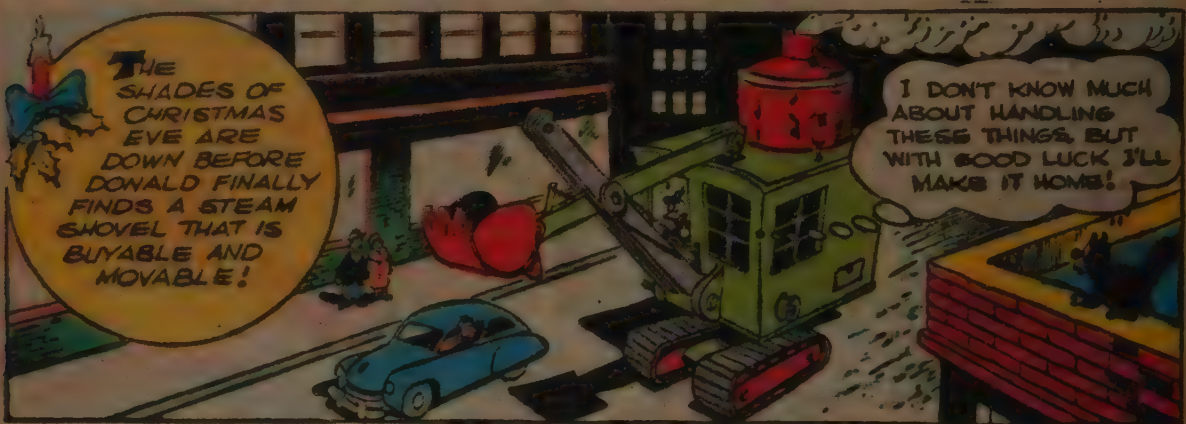
ANOTHER
CRACKPOT!



I JUST FINISHED TELLIN'
A GUY THAT YOU GOTTA
ORDER THEM THINGS
FROM THE
FACTORY!

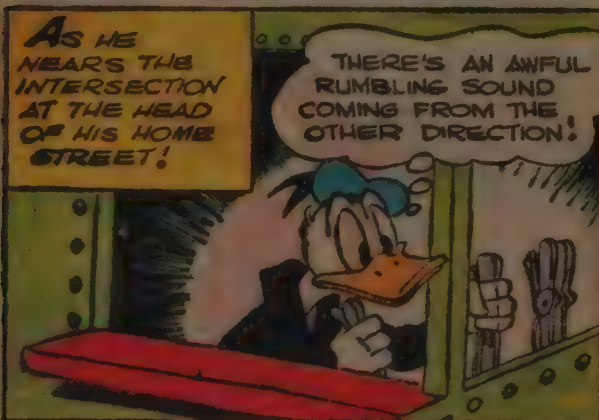


WELL,
WHERE'S
THE FACTORY?
I'LL BUY THE
FACTORY!



THE
SHADES OF
CHRISTMAS
EVE ARE
DOWN BEFORE
DONALD FINALLY
FINDS A STEAM
SHOVEL THAT IS
BUYABLE AND
MOVABLE!

I DON'T KNOW MUCH
ABOUT HANDLING
THESE THINGS, BUT
WITH GOOD LUCK I'LL
MAKE IT MOVE!

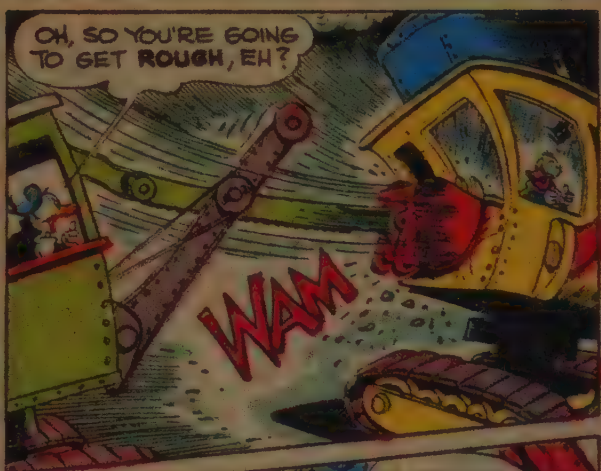


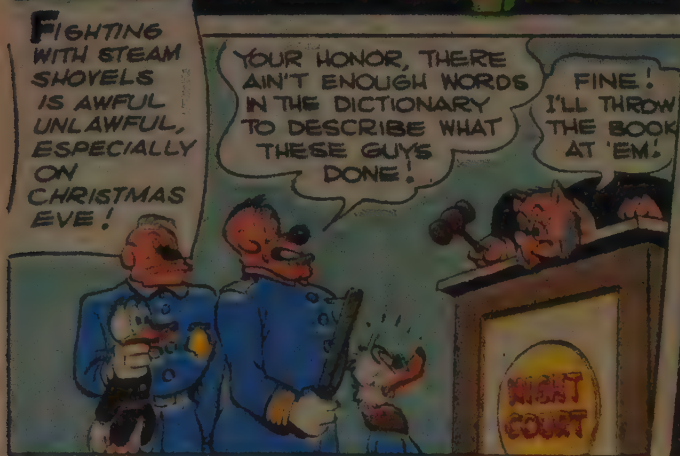
AS HE
NEARS THE
INTERSECTION
AT THE HEAD
OF HIS HOME
STREET!

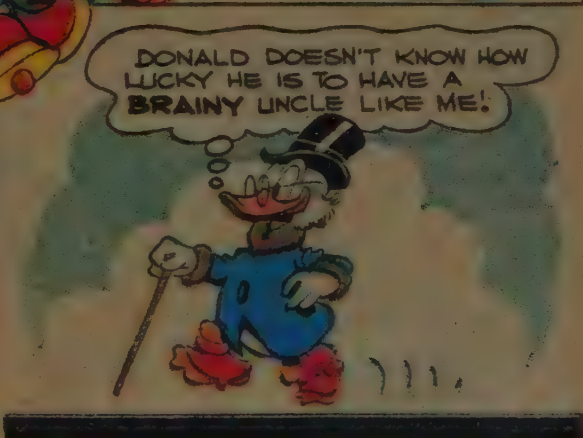
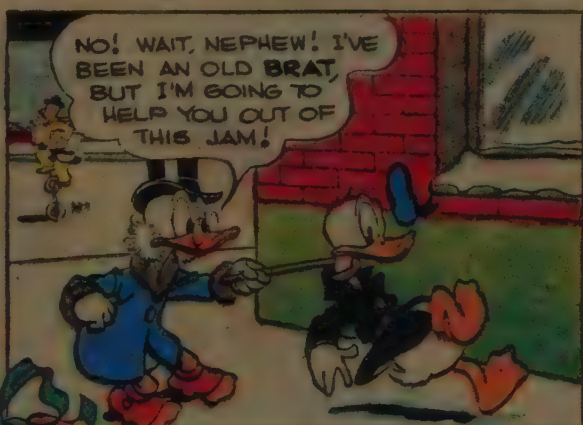
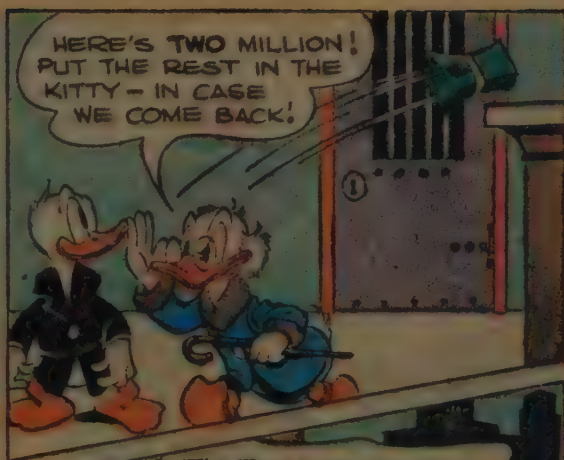
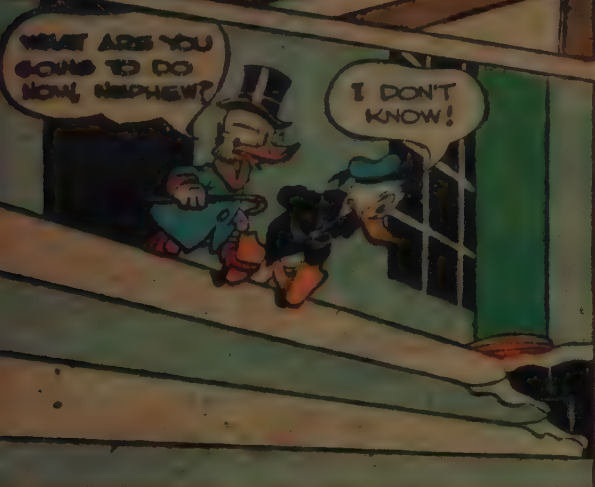
THERE'S AN AWFUL
RUMBLING SOUND
COMING FROM THE
OTHER DIRECTION!



IT'S ANOTHER STEAM
SHOVEL! AND IT'S
WHY, IT'S UNCLE
SCROOGE!







MEANWHILE,
THE KIDS
HAVE BEEN
COUNTING THE
HOURS, THE
MINUTES, AND
THE SECONDS
AS THEY WAIT
FOR MIDNIGHT
AND SANTA
CLAUS!

HALF
PAST
ELEVEN!

THIRTY MORE MINUTES
TO WAIT!

YEAH! EIGHTEEN
HUNDRED
SECONDS!

I'M WORRIED ABOUT
UNCLE DONALD! HE
SHOULDA BEEN HOME
HOURS
AGO!

I'M WORRIED, TOO,
BUT SANTA CLAUS IS
MORE IMPORTANT!

SOME
DISTANCE
DOWN THE
STREET!

TELL ME UNCLE
SCROOGE! WHAT IS THE
IDEA OF THIS SCREWBALL
MASQUERADE?

YOU'RE GOING TO BE SANTA CLAUS, LOOT!
AND SANTA ALWAYS DRIVES UP IN
A REINDEER
BUGGY, DOESN'T
HE?

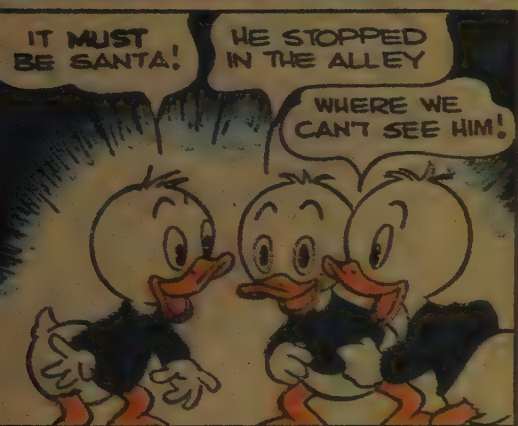
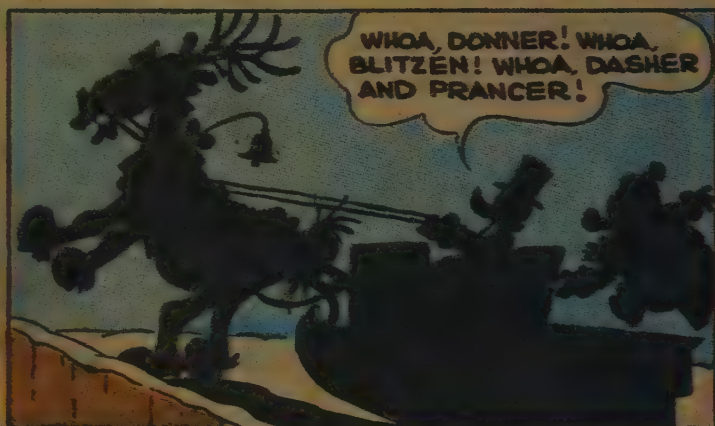
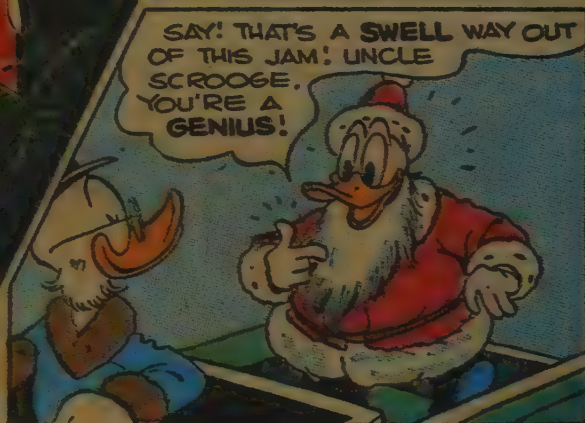
JINGLE
JINGLE
JINGLE

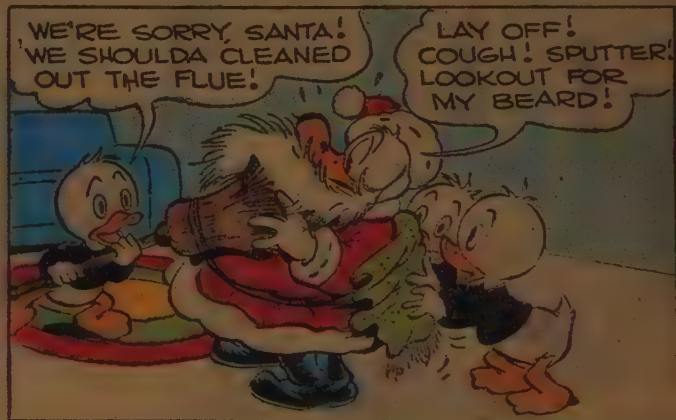
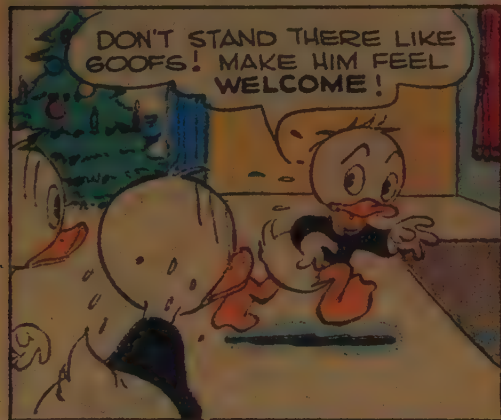
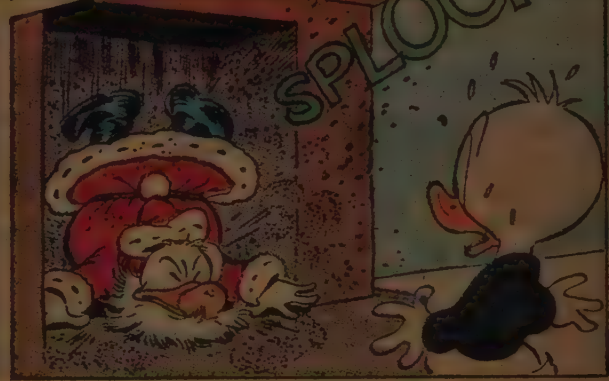
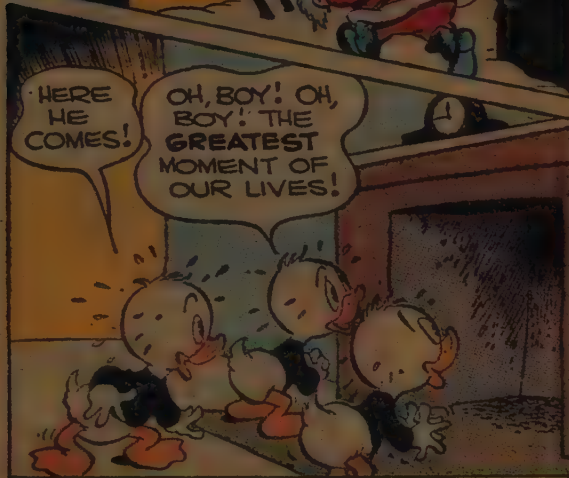
I HEAR
SLEIGH
BELLS!

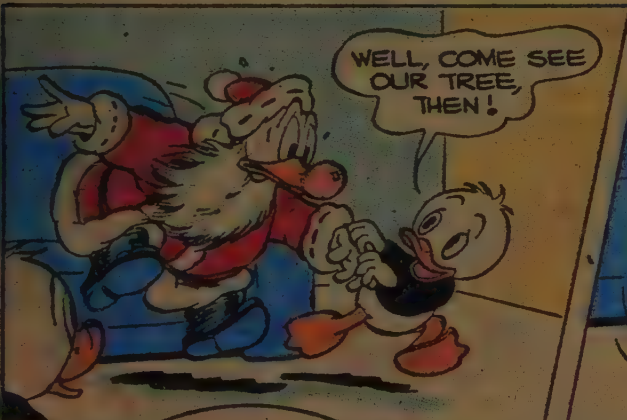
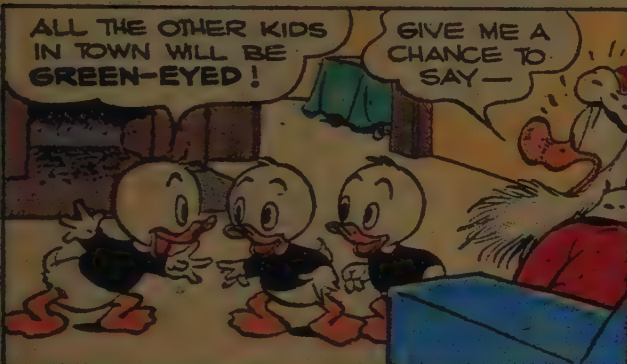
IT CAN'T
BE SANTA!

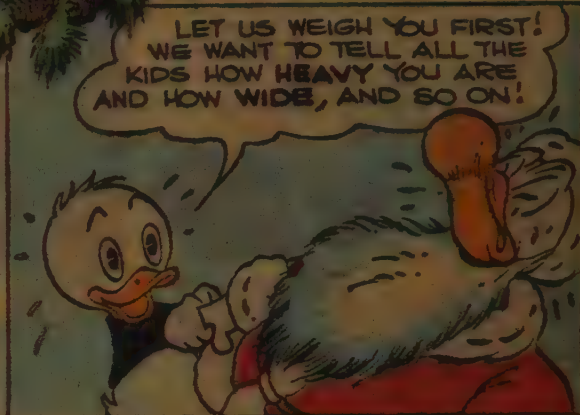
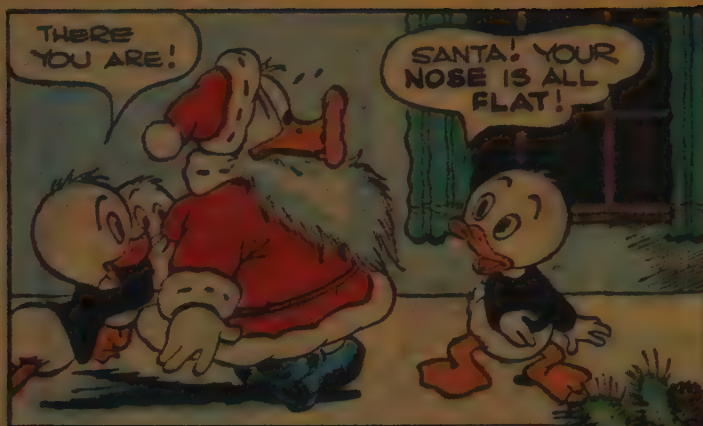
IT'S TOO
EARLY!

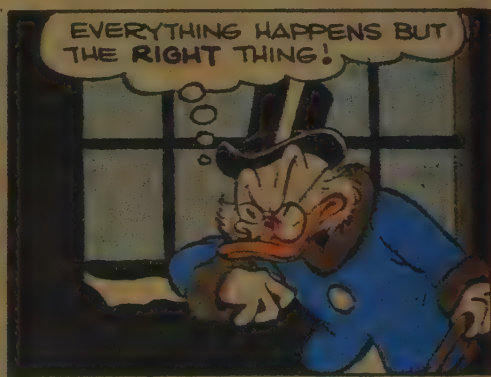
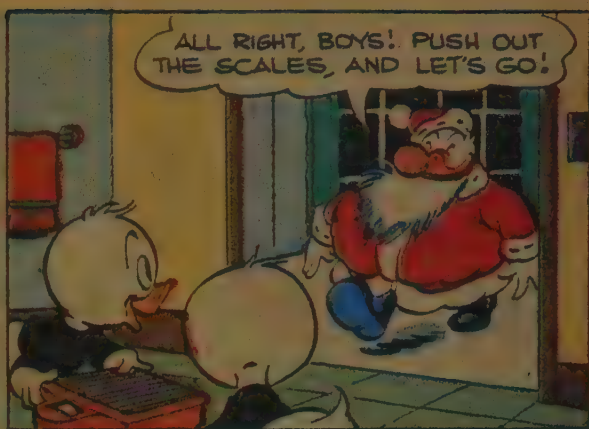
MAYBE THE CLOCK
IS SLOW!

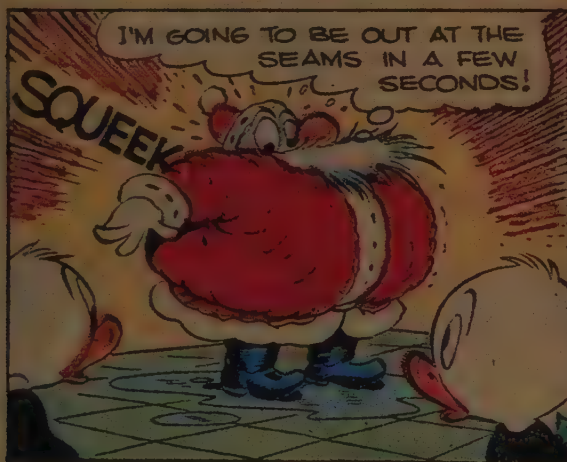
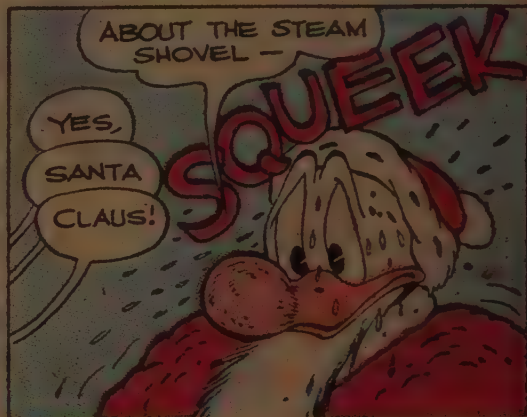


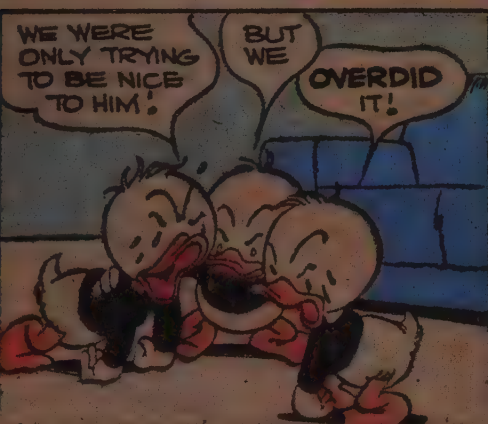
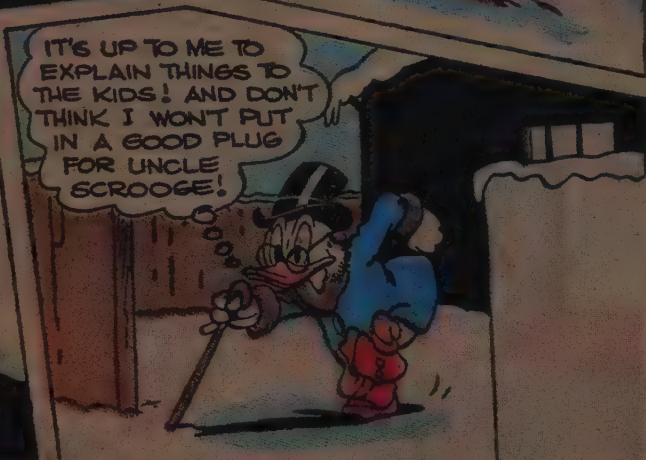
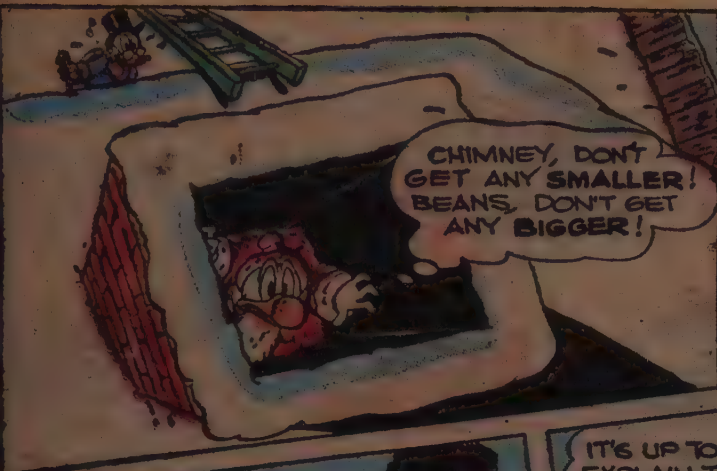


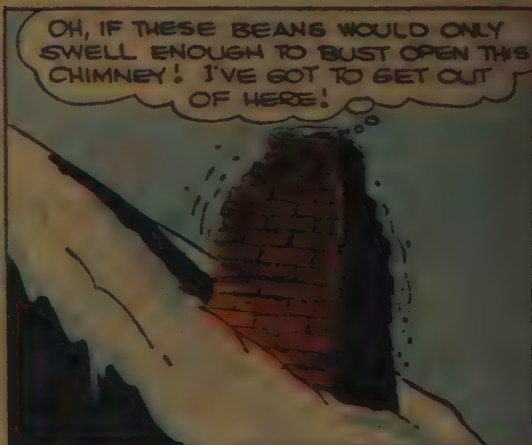
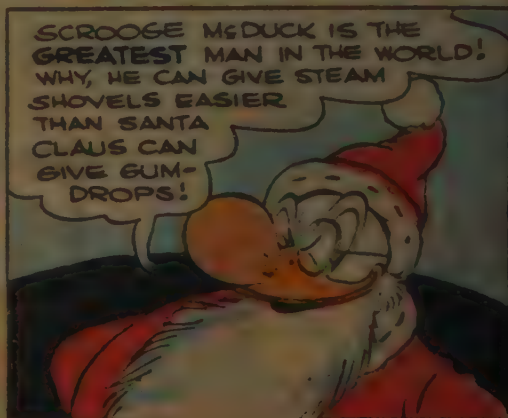


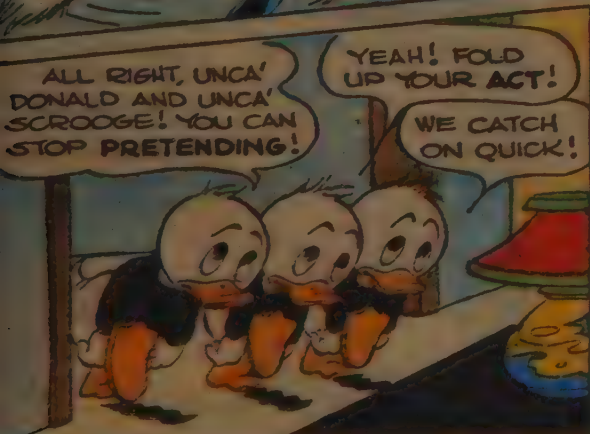
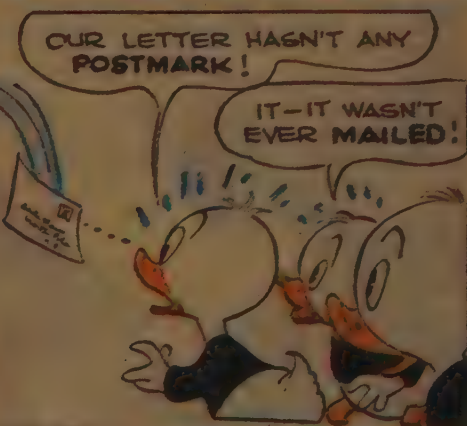


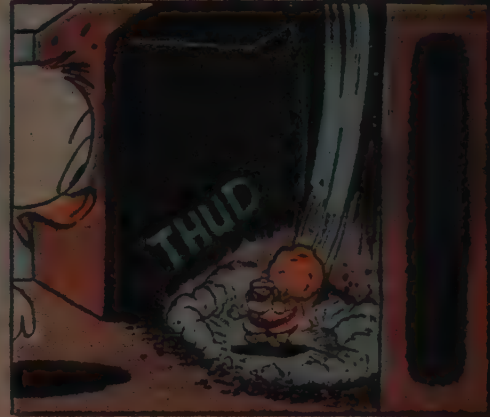
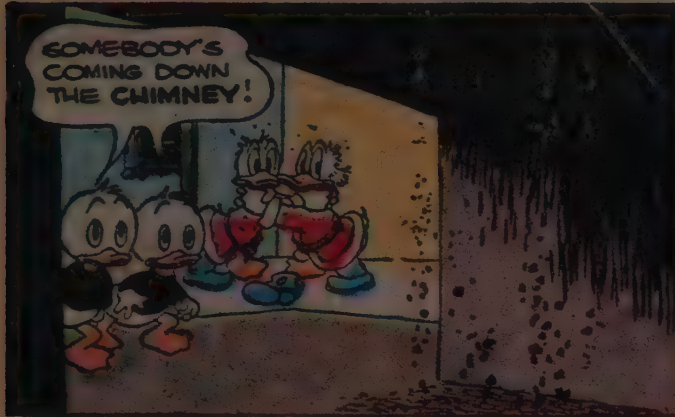
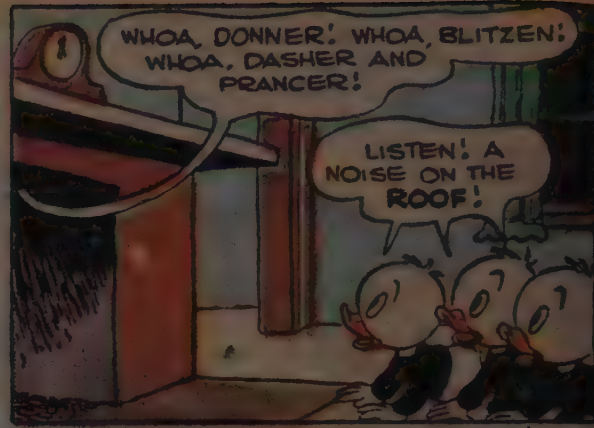
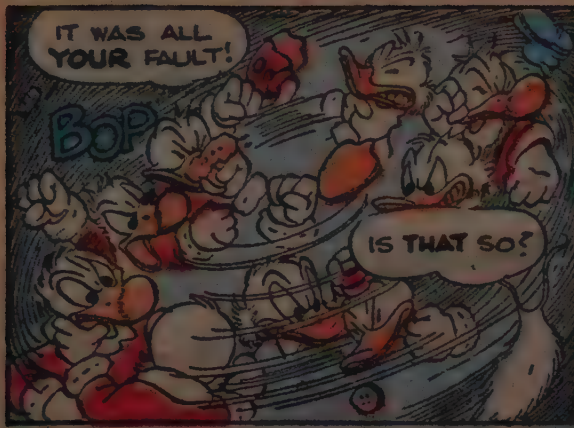


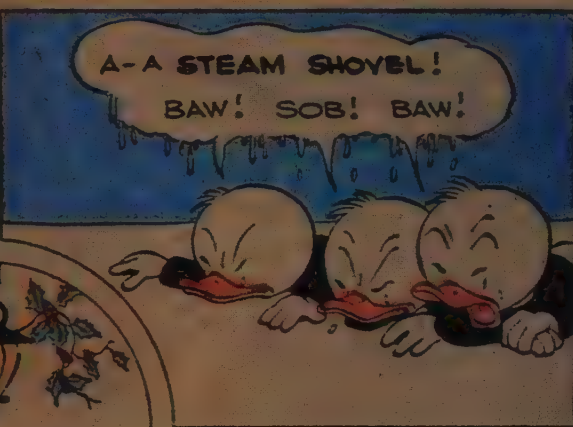
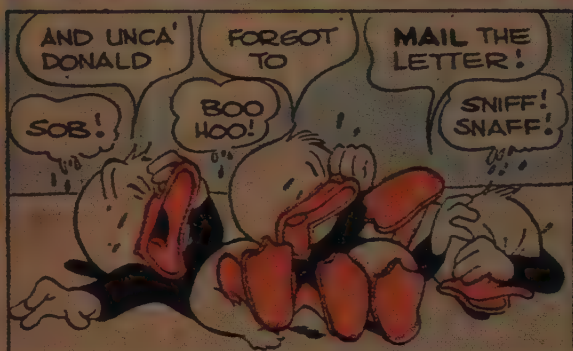


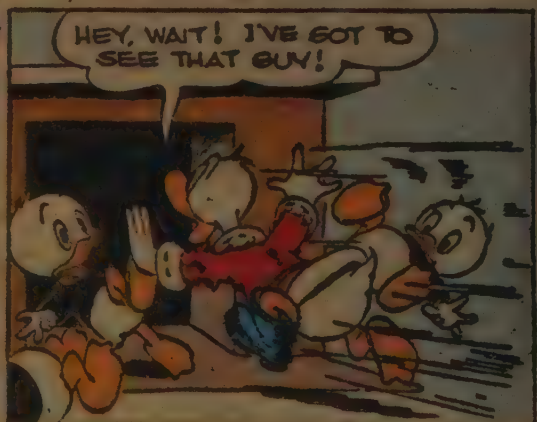
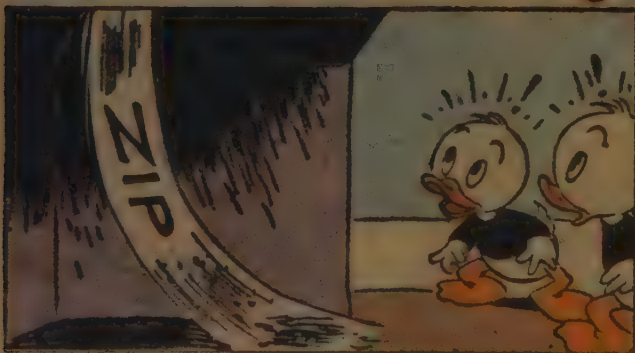
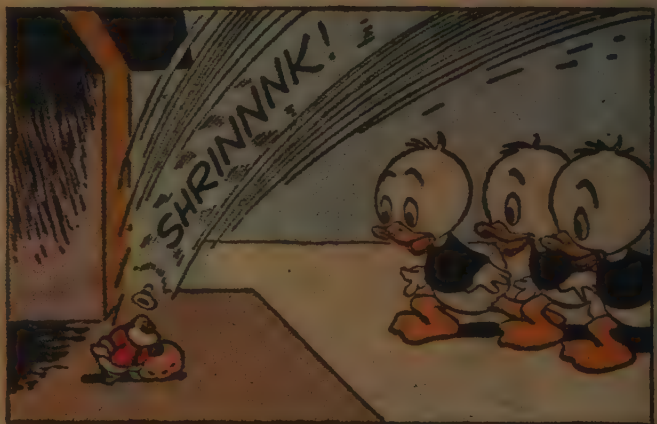
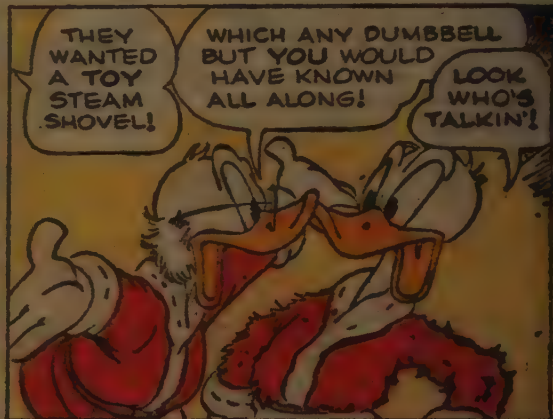
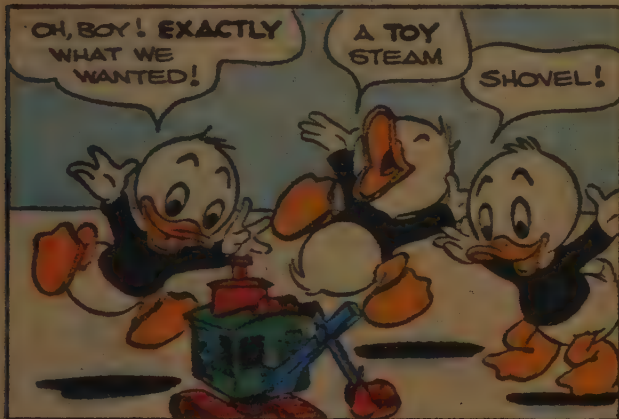














About “Pogo” and Walt Kelly

It will probably come as a surprise to some readers to find Pogo and Walt Kelly in this collection. It will probably come as a surprise to more readers to learn that Kelly actually began Pogo as a comic-book character, first in *Animal Comics* from 1942 to 1947, and then in the *Pogo Possum* comic book, which ran for sixteen issues between 1949 and 1954. By the time that the fine, farcical adventures presented here first appeared in *Pogo Possum*, Kelly's Pogo had already become a widely syndicated, much-loved newspaper feature, and softcover collections of those newspaper strips were best sellers.

In discussing his own past, Walt Kelly sometimes indulged in the same talent for whimsy that he brought to the animal adventures in the Okefenokee. So it has become difficult to be sure of the biographical details. But the main facts seem clear enough. Kelly was born August 25, 1913, in Philadelphia, but his family had moved to Bridgeport, Connecticut, within two years. Kelly on occasion described his father as a painter of theatrical scenery, but that seems doubtful, particularly as the profession of a citizen of Bridgeport in the 1930s. In any case, Walt contributed drawings to his high school newspaper (which he also edited) and yearbook. On graduation, he went to work for the Bridgeport *Post*.

By 1935, Walt Kelly had been hired by the Walt Disney Studios, where he animated parts of *Fantasia* and *Dumbo*. In 1941, Kelly moved to New York, where he worked for Western Printing and Lithographing Company on Dell comic books, chiefly *Animal Comics* and *Our Gang*.

For the former he created a feature that was probably derived to some extent from the Uncle Remus stories. At first it had no continuing title but it centered around a comically ravenous alligator named Albert and a black youngster named Bumbazine who visited with Albert and the animals in a southern swamp. The swamp's anthropomorphic inhabitants included a Pogo Possum whose role became gradually more prominent as Bumbazine's waned. (Incidentally, the drawing of Pogo that appears in the collection *Ten Ever-Lovin' Blue-Eyed Years with Pogo* captioned, “Pogo circa 1943,” is another example of Kelly whimsy, circa 1959. Pogo did look different in his early appearances but he didn't look like that.)

During World War II, Kelly worked as a civilian employee for the Army, contributing drawings to language manuals. He continued to work for Western Printing, too, contributing to comic books like *Raggedy Ann and Andy*, *Santa Claus Funnies*, and *Easter with Mother Goose*—along with *Animal Comics* and *Our Gang*—well into the postwar

years. The charming illustrated parodies of standard nursery rhymes and nursery tales that were later featured in Kelly's books were first tried out in *Raggedy Ann and Andy* and other comic books.

In 1949, Kelly became art editor for the idealistic enterprise known as the New York *Star*, a newspaper for which he did editorial cartoons and spot drawings, and for which he revived *Pogo* in a daily comic strip. When the *Star* died, *Pogo* was taken over by the New York *Post* and its Post-Hall Syndicate, then by Field Enterprises. The success of that strip was rapid and book collections of *Pogo* strips quickly followed. Kelly remained the steward of the strip until his death on October 18, 1973.

Walt Kelly's work in *Animal Comics*, with its audience of small children, is particularly interesting in retrospect. The early Albert Alligator was a comic villain who actually intended to make his lunches of the swamp's other inhabitants. That fact gives another dimension to one of the adventures that follows: the one about Albert's accidental cannibalism. Many fine variations on that idea appeared in Kelly's daily and Sunday *Pogo* strips.

Kelly found himself and found the nature of his talent when *Pogo* became a four-panel, daily comic strip. But the *Pogo* Sunday feature gave Kelly's improvisational fancy a larger yard to play in, and the contemporaneous comic book, so unduly neglected as it was, gave him virtually an open field.

The comic-book treatment of *Pogo* was curiously different. Despite more panels and larger panels, the characters dominate the strip and the backgrounds are sparser. (Incidentally, Kelly's comic-book stories, like those of John Stanley's *Little Lulu*, would thus make superb storyboards for cartoons—particularly TV cartoons—just as they are.)

The three vaudeville-like comic-book sketches that follow, with their comic delight in the humanized attitudes and reactions of their characters, their verbal games and fun, and their detached but passionate observations on us all—these *Pogo* sketches suggest that Walt Kelly's sensibility was perhaps closest to that of another gifted and whimsical twentieth-century Irishman, James Joyce.

In addition to the three stories from *Pogo Possum*, we have included the very first *Pogo* story, published in *Animal Comics* in 1942.

M.W.



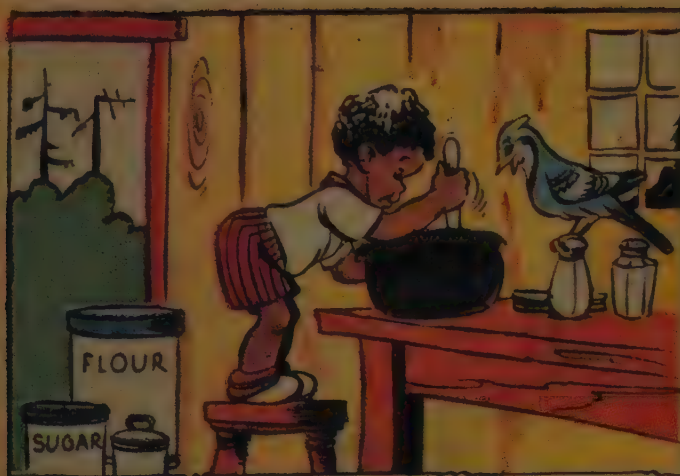
Once there was a big old Alligator named Albert who loved chocolate cake.



One bright morning Pogo the possum discovered that it was his birthday.



And when Mrs. Jay heard the news, she told Bumbazine, the little boy who lived on the edge of the swamp.



Bumbazine decided to bake a chocolate birthday cake for his friend Pogo. So he took flour and water and salt and pepper and sugar and molasses—



and three chocolate bars and a piece of bacon rind. He mixed them all together and baked the mixture into a cake.



When it was all done, Bumbazine hurried off to Pogo Possum's house.



And though it **WAS** a heavy cake, it had the most beautiful smell that the swamp creatures had smelled in a blue moon.



And finally Albert smelled the smell!



Congratulations on your birthday, Pogo!

Thank you, Beetle!



Pogo was receiving greetings from his neighbors—

Hi, there, Pogo! I'm coming across on this log!

Oh, hello, Bumbazine! I didn't recognize you in your new hat.



when he heard Bumbazine hailing him.

This isn't a hat! It's a cake and it's for you, because today is your birthday!



Gosh—look out, Bumbazine! That's not a log, either!



Ow! It's Albert!

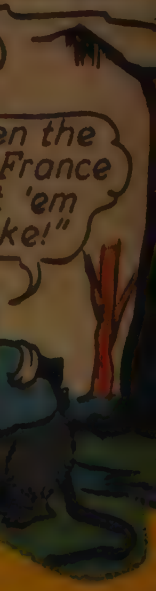
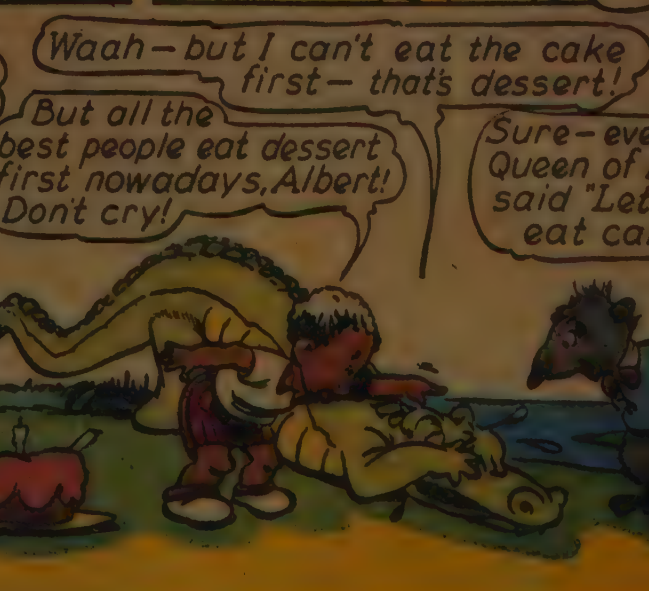
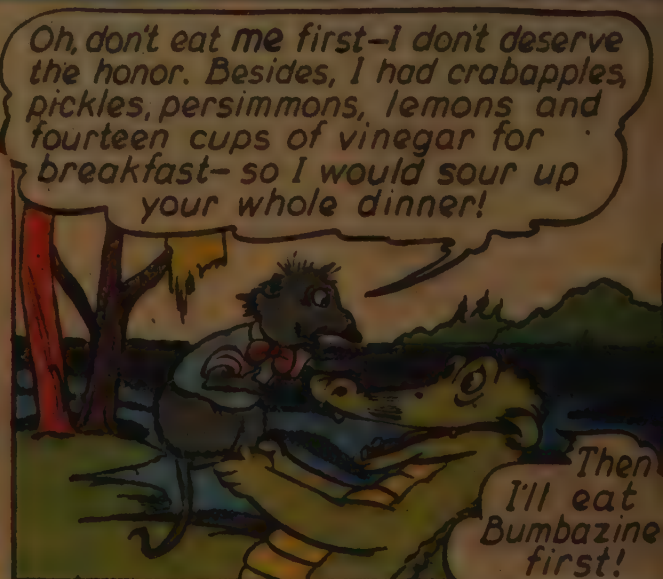


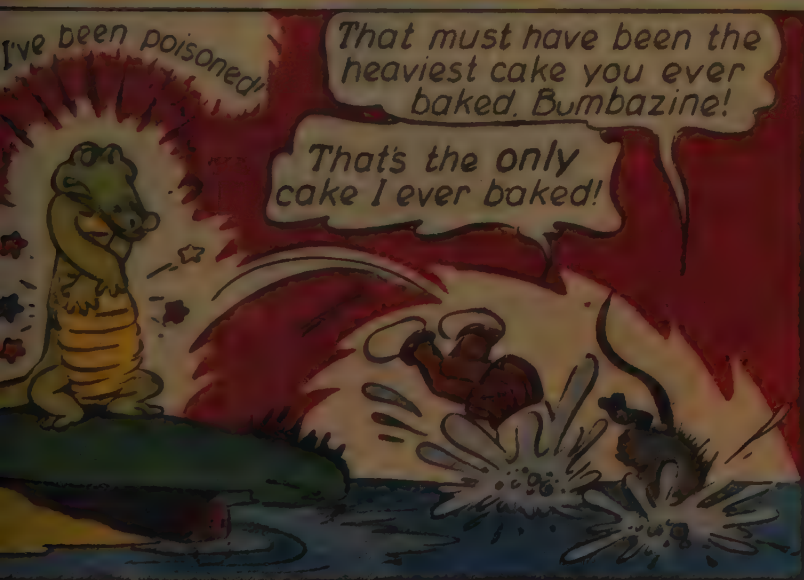
Not so fast—Bumbazine!



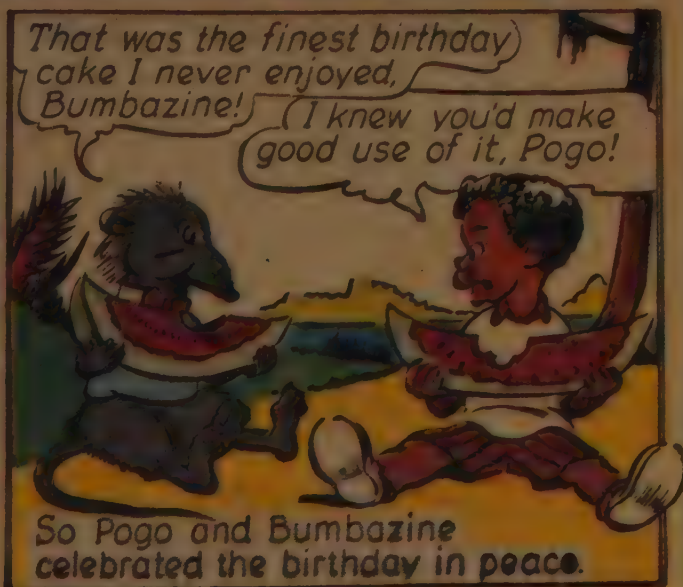
Pogo, give me that cake or I'll eat Bumbazine!







But the cake was so heavy that it pulled Albert to the bottom and there he stayed for a week.



Feelin' Mighty Hale, AND Farewell

WHILE US IS
TROLLIN' THROUGH
THE SWAMP, UNCLE
POGO, WHY DOESN'T
YOU TELL ME
A STORY?



GOOD IDEA... I DON'T THINK
I IS EVER TOLD YOU 'BOUT
THE TIME US PUMPED OUT
UNCLE ALBERT, IS I?

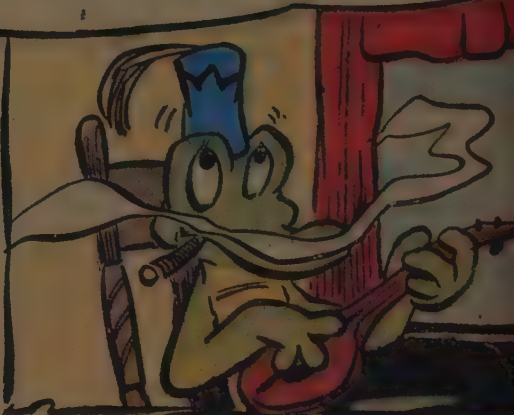
PUMPED OUT
UNCLE ALBERT?
WHUFFO?

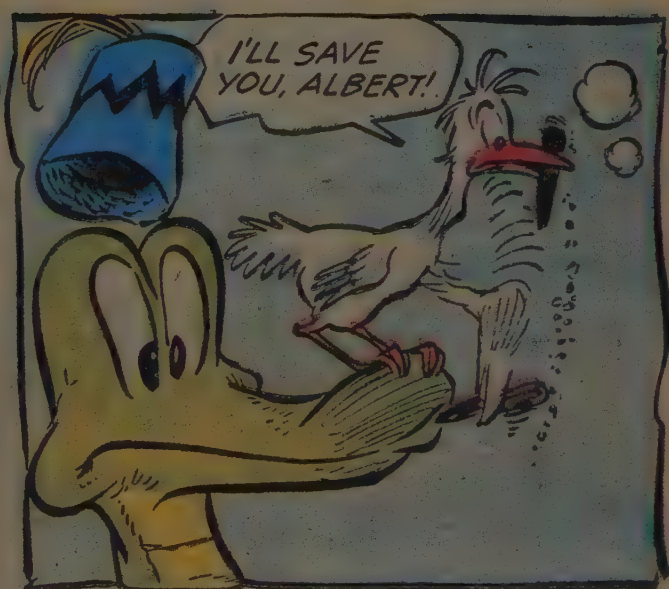
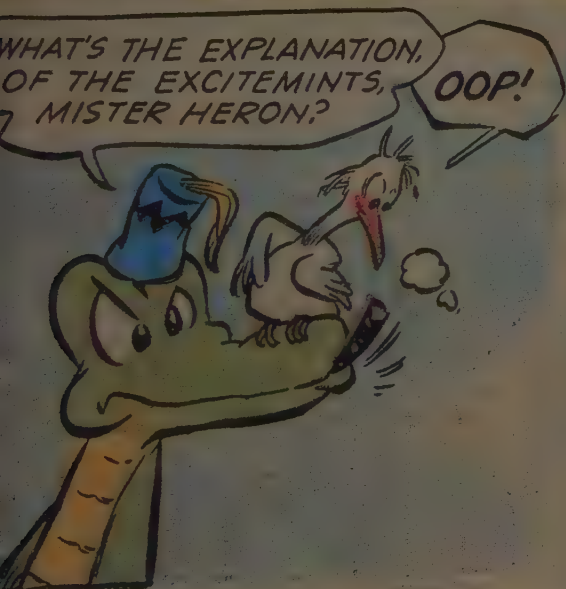
WELL, HE COMMITTED
SUICIDE—LONG 'BOUT
FIVE YEARS AGO.



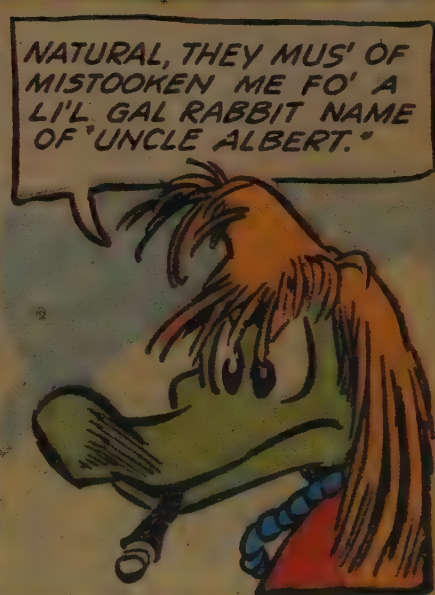
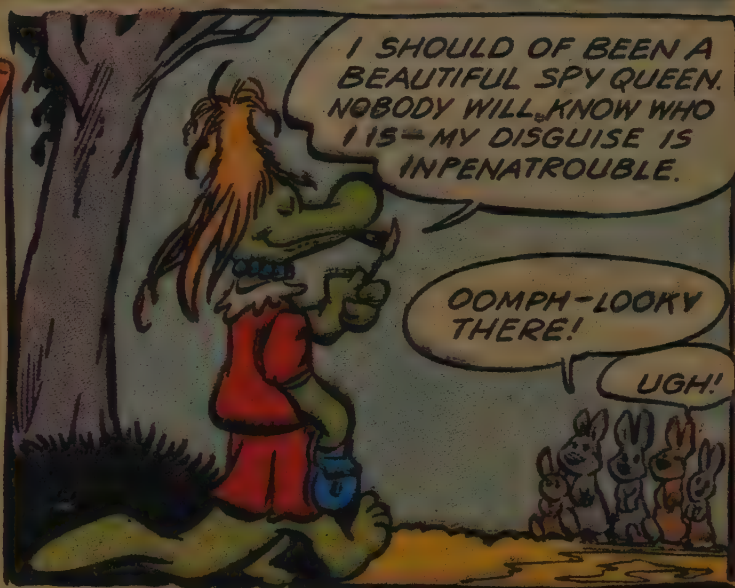
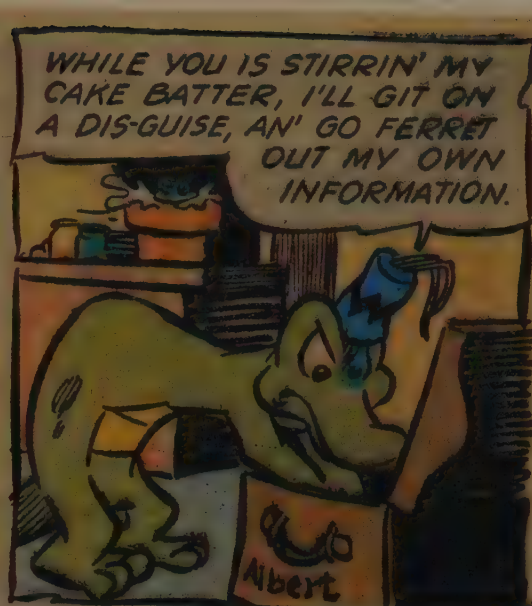
WE TOLD THE STORY ONCE
BEFORE, BUT WE GOT MAIL
SAYIN' TELL IT AGAIN—SO
HERE SHE IS...

ONE DAY, OL' UNCLE ALBERT WAS
SMOKIN' A SEEGAR TO HISSELF
WHEN SUDDEN HE GIT A FIERCE
AROMA OF **FRYIN' CATFISHES!**











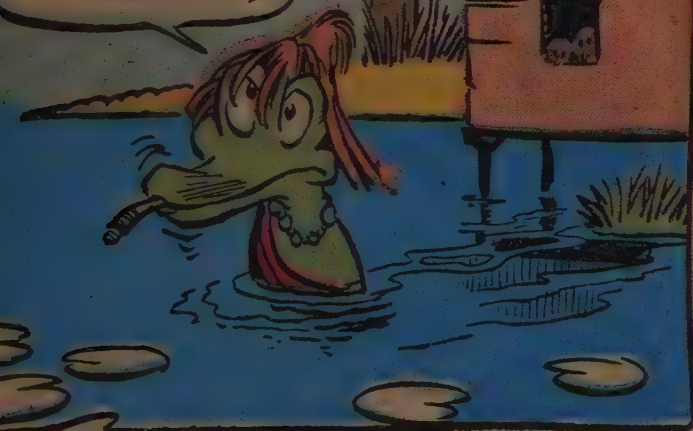
MAN! MIZ MUSHRAT IS
PUTTIN' OUT A HONEY
PIE TO COOL-I KNOW
IT A HONEY PIE
CAUSE LI'L BEE
BUGS IS A-BUZZIN'
ROUND IT.



GOOLP!



MM-NOT BAD-
MUNCH-CRUNCH-
CRUNCH...)



(WOORP! URP)-EXCUSE
ME. MRS. MUSHRAT
MUST BE A
MEXICAN-
THAT WAS
A HIGH
SEASONED
PIE!



EXCUSE-MM-
EVERYBODY
COOKIN'
TODAY.

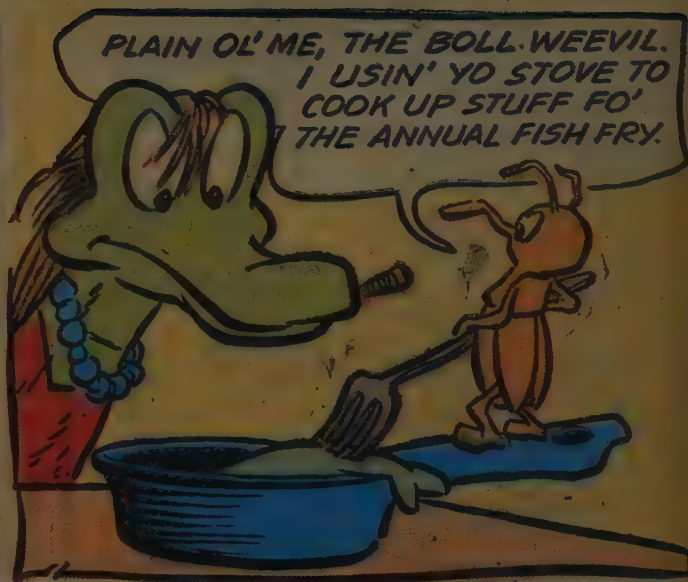
WURP!



MAN! SOMEBODY IS FRYIN'
CATS IN THERE-WONDER
WHO LIVES THERE-
SIGN SAY
A-R-C-
W-V-X-

ALBERT





YEP, MAILMAN, I IS WORKIN MY
HEAD TO THE BONE GITTIN' READY
FO' THE FISH FRY.

WISH'T I COULD
GO—MIZ MUSHRAT
TOLE ME A
FUNNY STORY..

SHE PUT OUT A
'HORNETS' NEST IN
A PIE PAN AN'
SOME CRITTUR
ATE IT—
HAW HAW!

SHE SAY SHE
SPECTED THE
WARMINT AND
SHE GLAD SHE
FOOLED HIM!

SO—SHE TRIED
TO POISON ME!
HARRUMPH!

YOU!?

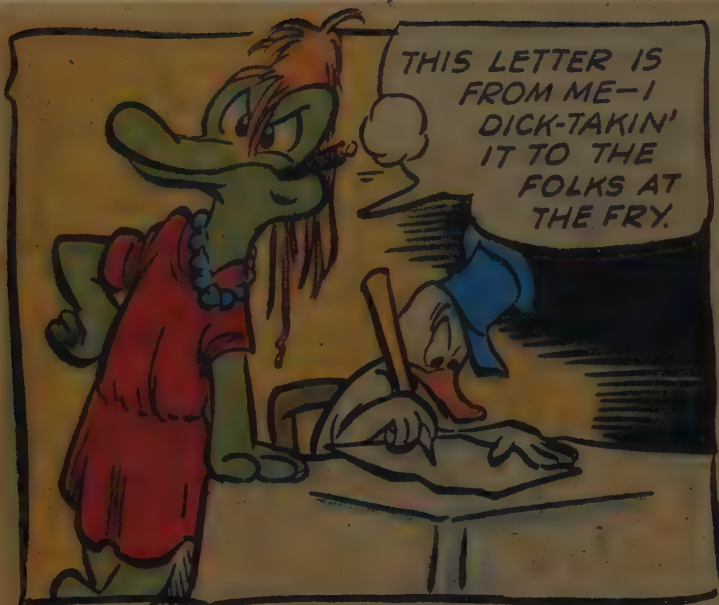
YES, ME! COME
ON IN HERE!

WHAT YOU
WANTS, SIR?

I WANTS YOU TO WRITE
A SUICIDE
NOTE.

NIX! I DON'T
WANT TO COMMIT
SUICIDE—GOOD-BYE!
—WOOP!

HOLE
ON!

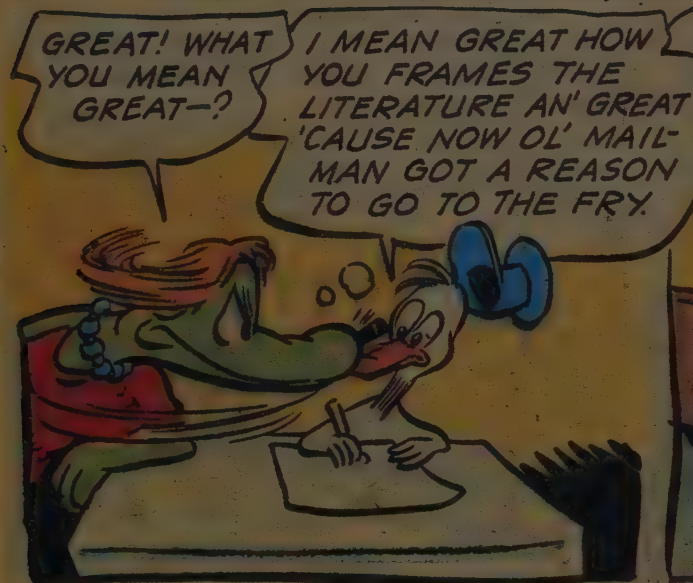


THIS LETTER IS FROM ME—I DICK-TAKIN' IT TO THE FOLKS AT THE FRY.

SAY: 'GOOD-BYE, CRUEL WORLD. I GONE DO WAY WITH MYSELF 'CAUSE YO' DIN'T TELL ME 'BOUT THE ANNUAL FRY AN' YOU TRY TO POISON ME—MAIL AN' FAREWELL.'

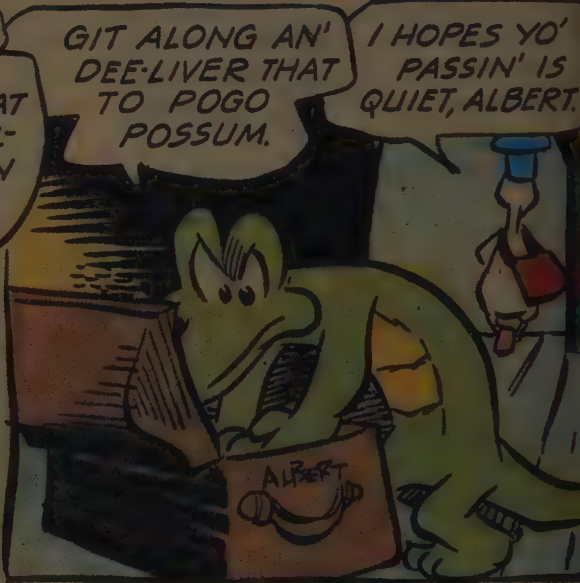


GREAT!



GREAT! WHAT YOU MEAN GREAT—?

I MEAN GREAT HOW YOU FRAMES THE LITERATURE AN' GREAT 'CAUSE NOW OL' MAIL-MAN GOT A REASON TO GO TO THE FRY.



GIT ALONG AN' DEE-LIVER THAT TO POGO POSSUM.

I HOPES YO' PASSIN' IS QUIET, ALBERT.

'COURSE I ADMIT THAT I TOLE EVERYBODY LAST YEAR THEY DIN'T NEED TO INVITE ME SPECIAL. THE ANNUAL FRY IS OPEN TO ALL.



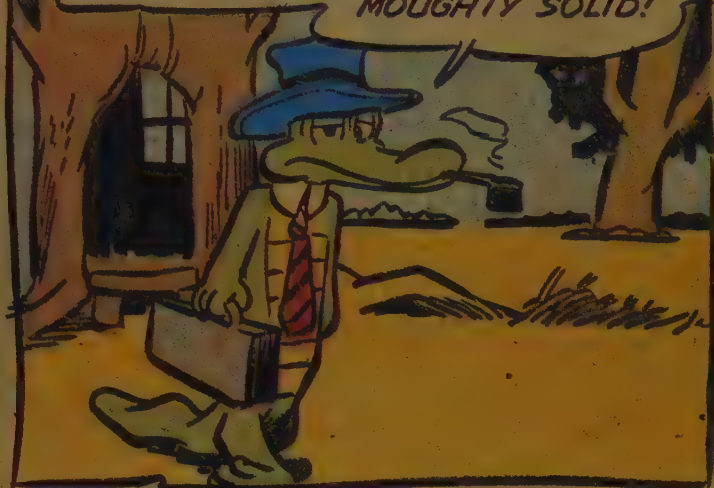
BUT I WISH FOLKS WOULD RE-MEMBER WHAT I MEAN AN' NOT WHAT I SAY—MM-CAKE DONE.



I'LL JUST EAT THIS BEFORE
LEAVIN' THE COUNTRY FO' A
SPELL AN' PUTTIN A SCARE
INTO THEM CRITTURS.



MMMMPH—WONDER IF I REALLY DID
COMMIT SUICIDE? THAT CAKE WAS
MOUGHTY SOLID!



WHAT
BECOMED
OF THE
FROG?

HE MUST
STILL OF
BEEN IN
THE CAKE!



I IS A CANNIBUBBLE!



HERE'S A NOTE
FROM ALBERT.

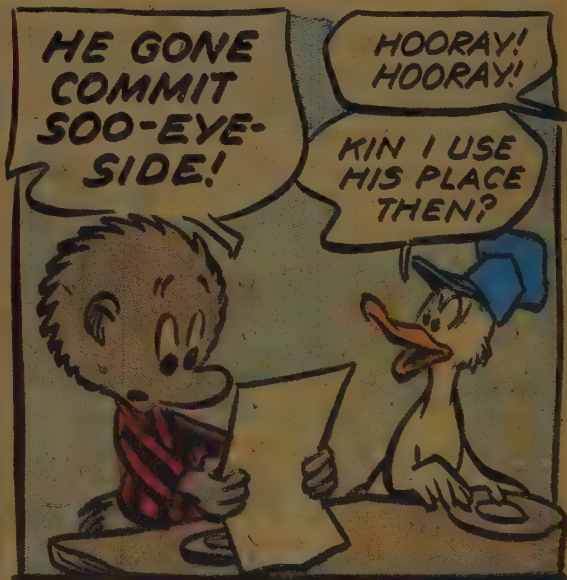
GOOD—I HOLDIN'
HIS PLACE FO'
HIM.



HE GONE
COMMIT
SOO-EYE-
SIDE!

HOORAY!
HOORAY!

KIN I USE
HIS PLACE
THEN?



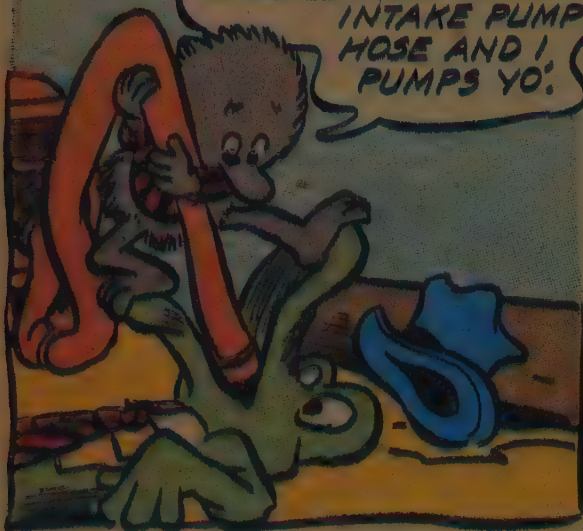
ONLY ONE THING! TAKE THE FIRE
PUMP WHAT WE HAD IN CASE
THE BONFIRE GOT OUT OF
CONTROL.



QUICK, ALBERT! OPEN YO' MOUTH
AN' LET THE PULMOTOR WHICH I
IS PULLIN' PUMP OUT THE POISON.
IT'S YO ONLY CHANCE.

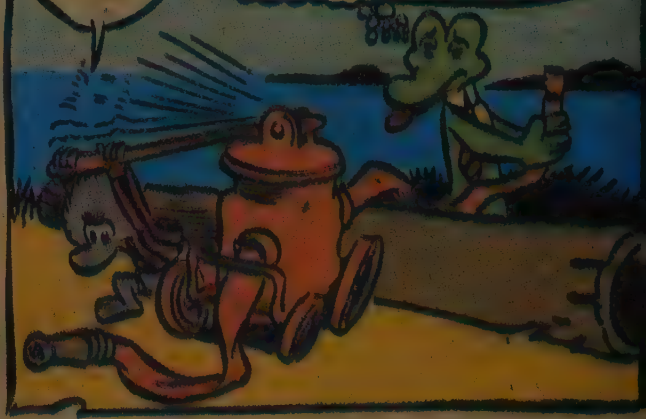


SWALLER DOWN THE
INTAKE PUMP
HOSE AND I
PUMPS YO'.



ONE,
TWO,
ONE,
TWO-

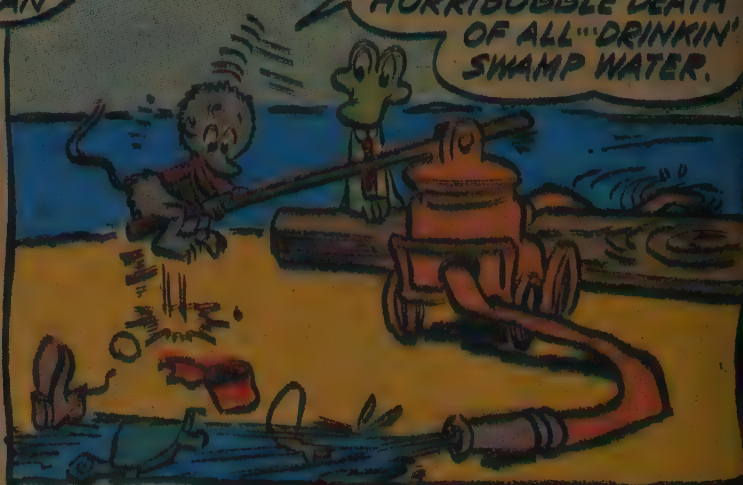
SPOOIE! POGO SURE
PICKS OUT UNCOMFORTABLE
WAYS TO PROVE HE'S
MY BEST FRIEND.

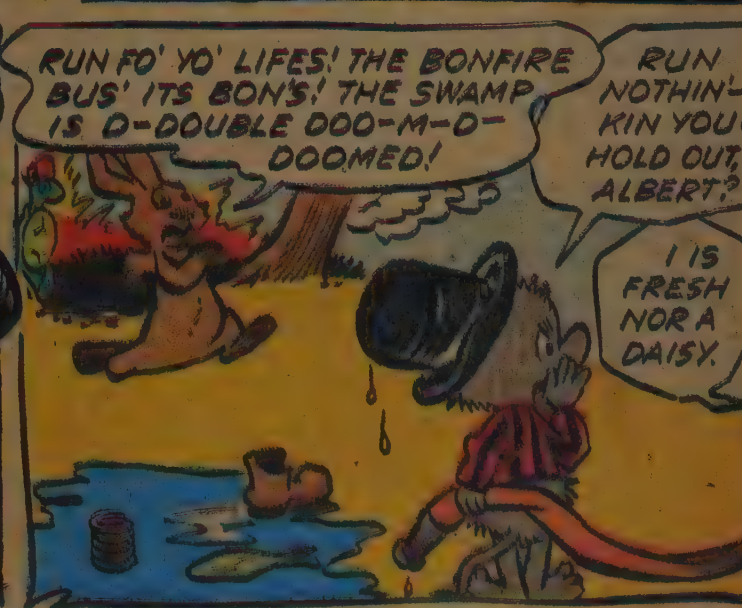
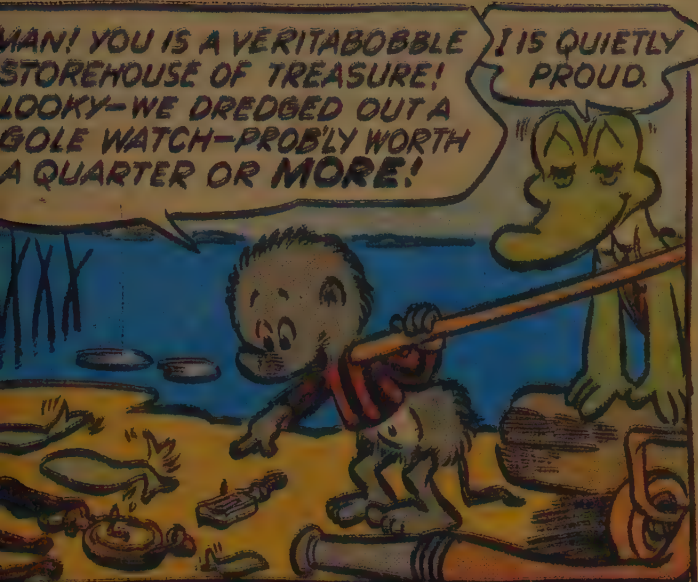


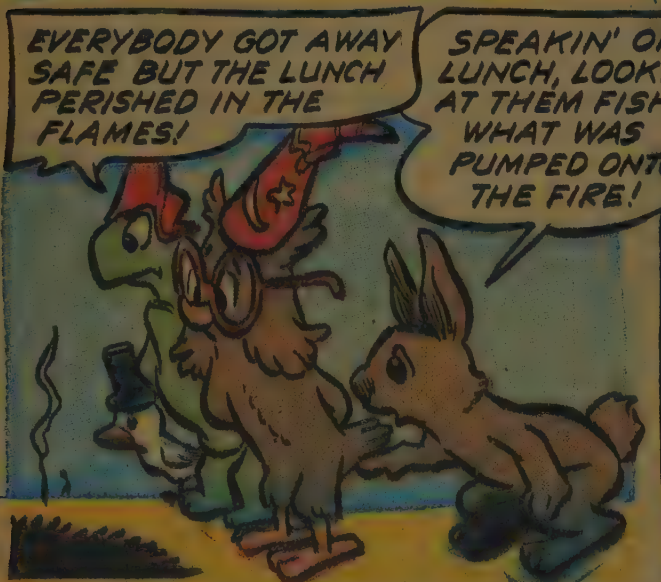
I'LL JUST STICK THIS HOSE
IN THE LAGOON AND THAT'LL
SATISFY POGO-THEN I CAN
BE SICK IN PEACE.



MY SAKES, ALBERT,
YOU TRIED THE MOST
HORRIBOBLE DEATH
OF ALL "DRINKIN'
SWAMP WATER.







THIS MUS' BE THE ONLY
TIME IN HISTORY ANYBODY
COOKED A FISH DINNER
AND PUT OUT A FIRE
AT ONCE, POGO.

AW—
T WASN'T
NOTHIN'.

I GLAD YOU CRAWLED OUT OF
THE BATTER 'FORE I BAKED
IT, MR. FROG—
SOME DAY I'LL
BAKE YOU A CAKE.

HOW
ABOUT
JUS'
LEAVIN'
WELL
ENOUGH
ALONE?



SO—THAT'S THE WAY THINGS USED TO BE IN
THE SWAMP, LI'L RACKETY COON CHILE...
ISN'T YOU GLAD ALBERT DIN'T **REALLY**
EAT THE HOP FROG? WHY, THE LI'L
FURRY TAD IS ASLEEP!

HEY, POGO—COME
ON IN! WE GIVES
THE TAD HIS
SUPPER, THEN
HE GOTTA GO
HOME.



LOOKY HOW HE CUDDLE DOWN
ALL TUCKERED—MAN, IF HE
WAS MO' HAN'SOME—LIKE A
GATOR, I'D
ADOPT
HIM.

HIS MAMMY WOULDN'T LIKE IT ANY-
WAYS. ROUSE HIM SO'S HE CAN
HAVE SOME PER-LOO, THEN WE
CARRY HIM HOME THROUGH
THE MOONLIGHTS.



Cinderella

and the THREE BEARS



WALT
KELLY

POGO! POGO! DROP
EVERYTHING! I IS
GOT A
STORY
TO TELL
YOU!

HUMPH!

HUMPH?

IN OTHER WORDS,
IS IT A STORY
WHAT KIN FIT
THE EAR OF A
CHILE TYPE
OF CRITTUR?

WELL, IT'S THE
STORY OF LI'L
OL' CINDEROLA.

THAT OKAY WITH YOU
CHILLUNS?

US DON'T
RIGHTLY MIND.
BUT US BETTER
CONSULT
LI'L EM'LY.

HEAR,
HEAR!

EM'LY?
WHERE'S
EM'LY?

THERE
SHE BE,
PLAIN
AS PLAIN!

EM'LY
SAY,
"SHOOT!"

"SHOOT"
SHE
SAY.

SHOOT?

SHOOT
IT IS.

SHOOT.

RIGHT.

POGO 3-5-1

WELL, IT SEEM LIKE THEY
WAS THIS BEAUTIFUL YOUNG
GAL GO BY NAME
CINDEROLA.



SHE LIVE IN A HOUSE WITH HER STEP-
MOTHERS AN' SISTERS AN' THEY MAKE
HER SLEEP IN THE CINDERS SO THAT
HOW SHE GIT THE NAME.



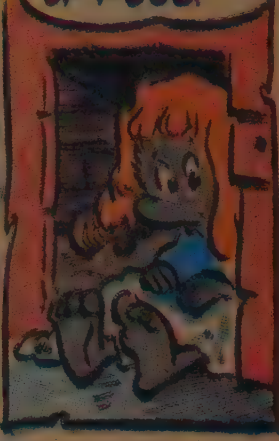
HER MOTHER WAS A MEAN
OL' FIERCE OL' MAN BEAR
NAME OF STEPMOTHER.



HER SISTERS WAS A LADY
MA BEAR AN' A BABY BOY
BEAR CALLED BIG SISTER AN'
LIL' SISTER.



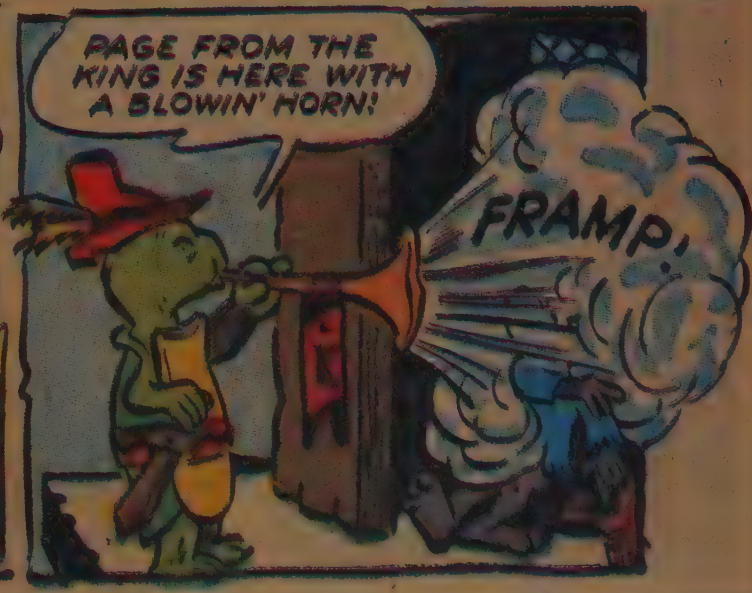
WHILST CINDER-
OLA HERSELF
WAS A LIL' HE
POSSUM NAME
OF POOO.



ONE DAY COMES A KNOCK
AT THE DOOR.



PAGE FROM THE
KING IS HERE WITH
A BLOWIN' HORN!



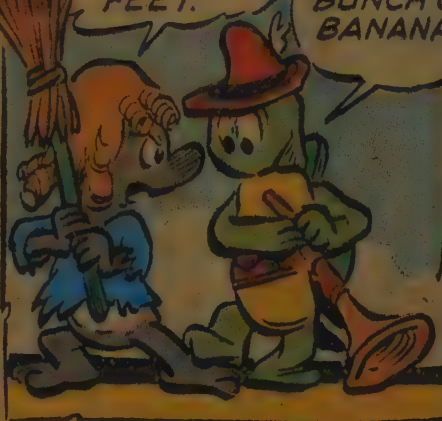
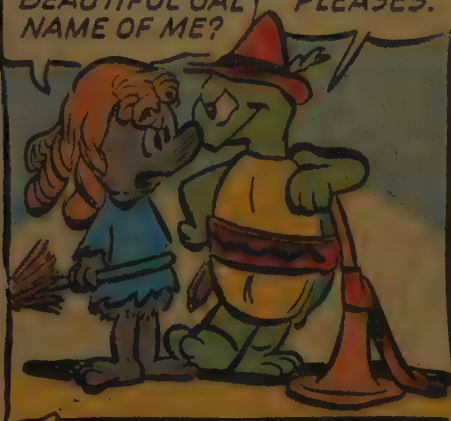
HOW COME YOU BLOWIN' "FRAMP" IN THE FACE OF A BEAUTIFUL GAL NAME OF ME?

US ROYAL SERVANTS BLOWS WHAT AN' WHERE WE PLEASES.

GIT OFFEN MY TOE BONES 'FORE I SWEEPS YOU OFF MY FEET.

IS THAT A FOOT? I THOUGHT IT WAS A BUNCH OF BANANAS.

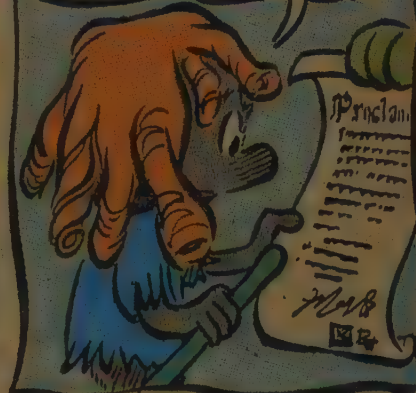
WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE BESIDES A ILL WIND, CHURL?



READ THE PROCLAMATION!

WELL, WELL! IT'S FROM THE KING. HE WANTS ALL BEAUTIFUL GALS TO COME TO A FISH FRY AN' STOMP!

EVER'BODY GOTTA WEAR SHOES.

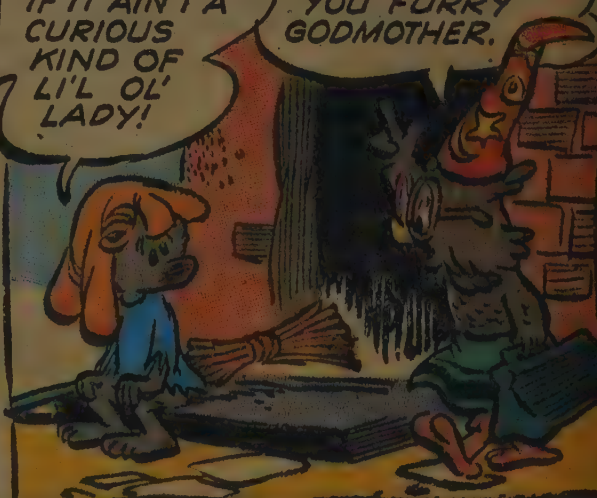
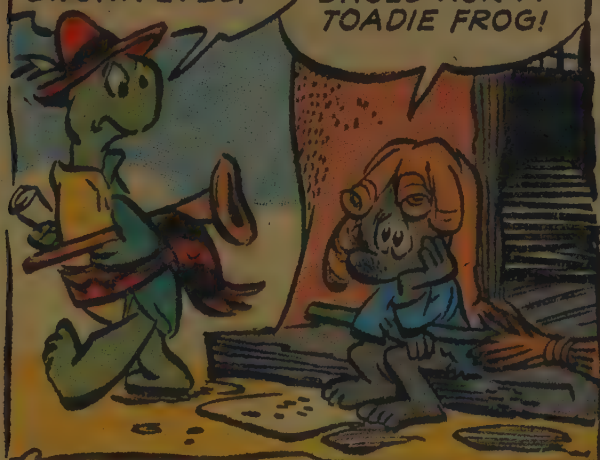


FEARED THAT LEAVES YOU OUT, BROWN EYES.

FEARED IT DO-I GOT NO MORE SHOES NOR A TOADIE FROG!

BLOW ME DOWN, IF IT AIN'T A CURIOUS KIND OF LI'L OL' LADY!

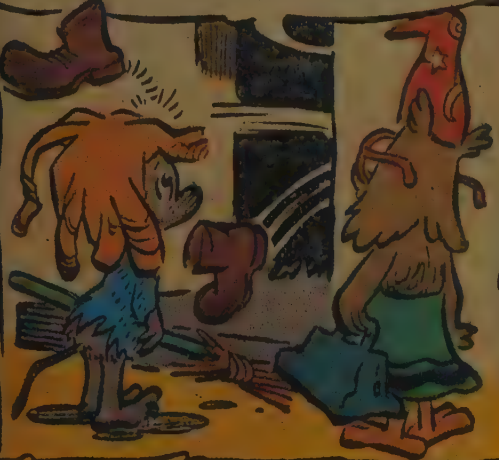
CINDEROLA, I IS YOU FURRY GODMOTHER.



MEBBE YOU AIN'T GOT SHOES, CINDEROLA, BUT I IS! SO GET BUSY AN' SHINE 'EM UP!

THAT WAS MY BEAUTIFUL BUT UGLY STEPSISTER...LOOKY HOW DAINTY...WISHT I HAD SHOES LIKE THEM.

ANY WISH YOU GOT, CHILE, I GONNA GRANT YOU ON ACCOUNT OF I IS A TOP CLASS FURRY GODMOTHER.



HURRY UP WITH 'EM! BIG KIND SISTER AIN'T GONE WAIT LONG.

JES' LEMME WORK THIS MAGIC SPELL ON 'EM... PERTY SOON YOU'LL HAVE A PAIR.

BIG KIND SISTER GONE FRY YOUR EARS DO SHE KETCH YOU BREAKIN' EGGS IN THEM.

WHY YOU CALLS HER "BIG KIND"? IS SHE KIND?

WELL— SHE'S A BIG KIND OF SISTER.



NOTHIN'S HAPPENIN'.

US'LL TRY A LI'L TABASCO SAUCE.

THEM IS MERE SLOPPED UP—AN' THEM EGGS WERE NONE TOO FRESH.

TAKE 'EM INTO THE BIG SISTER AN' WATCH! YOU'LL GIT A PAIR, PRESTO!

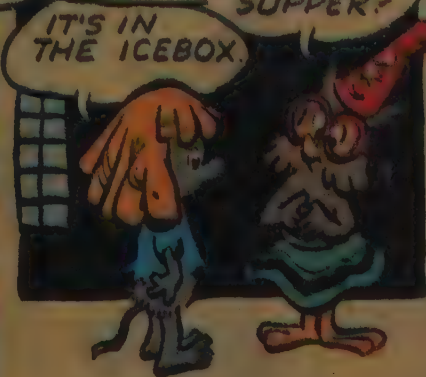




BY JING, I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS PROBLEM! NO BUNCH OF BEARS CAN GIT THE BEST OF US FURRY GODMOTHERS!

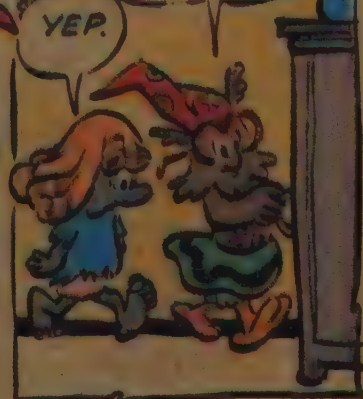


NOW, THE FIRST THING... WE GOTTA BUILD UP OUR STRENGTH. WHAT DID THEY LEAVE FOR SUPPER?



IT'S IN THE ICEBOX.

AH, A LITTLE SOMETHING COLD, I PREE-SUME?



YEP.



HMMP—IT'S LITTLE ENOUGH.

IS IT COLD?

YOU'RE DING STABBIN' BLOO BANGED RIGHT I'M COLD!



THAT'S THE LAST TIME I EVER CRACK INTO A ICEBOX!



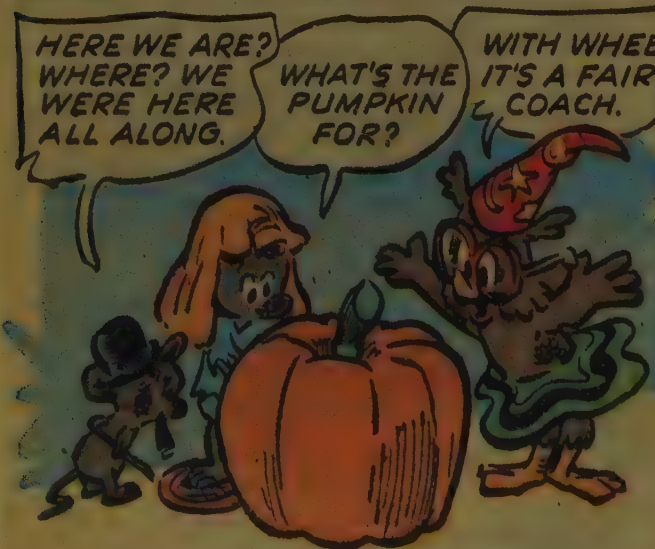
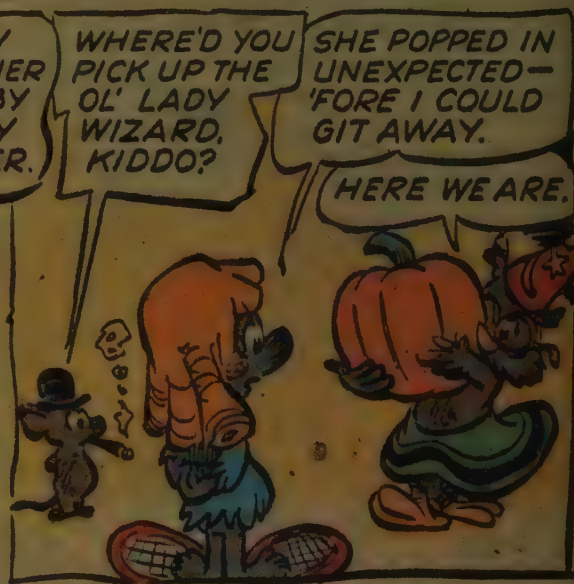
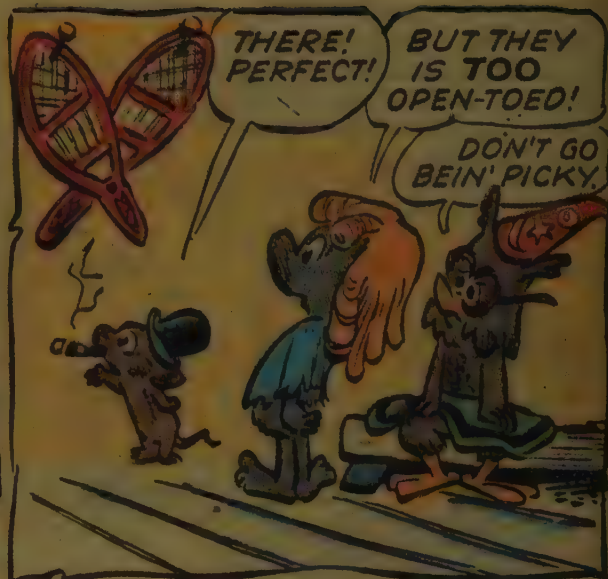
PHOOOPH! I GUESS THERE'S NOT MUCH TO EAT ON YOU.

FRIENDS, I AIN'T EVEN GOT A CUP OF COFFEE ON ME.

HEY, YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO SLEEP ON MY WICKED STEPMOTHER'S BED! HE'LL WHOP YOU!

CINDEROLA IS ANXIOUS TO GO TO THE STOMP.





MOOM? WHY, YOU GOGGLE-GAITED OL' GULL, I COULDN'T PULL A GNAT'S TOOTH, LET ALONE A PICNIC-SIZE PUMPKIN FULL OF PASSENGERS.



ALA-GA-ROO-GA-ZAM! THERE! YOU'RE A HORSE!



IF I'M A HORSE, HE'S A BEAUTIFUL GAL!

THAT SETTLES THAT.



IN JUS' A WUFFY THIS COACH WILL BE READY FOR YOU, CINDEROLA.



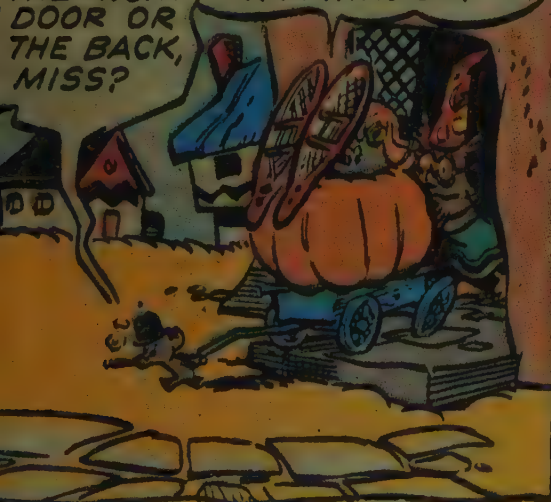
IF I'M PULLIN', LADY, YOU IS PUSHIN'!

THINK ANYBODY WILL NOTICE MY SHOES IS STICKIN' OUT?



YOU WANT THE FRONT DOOR OR THE BACK, MISS?

LET'S TRY TO SNEAK IN A WINDOW.

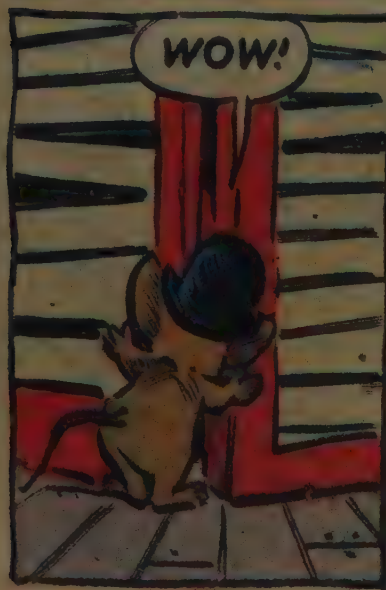


POORADE! POO-RADE!

YOU SHOULD BE HOME IN BED!

ME, TOO.







THAT MUST BE
THE PRINCE, AN'
YOUR DISMAL
STEPSISTERS
IS GETTIN' READY
TO POUNCE ON
HIM.



RUSH IN, CHILE,
YO' FURRY
GODMOTHER
KNOWS BEST.



HELLO, PRINCEY, I IS READY TO
MARRY YOU!

ME,
TOO!

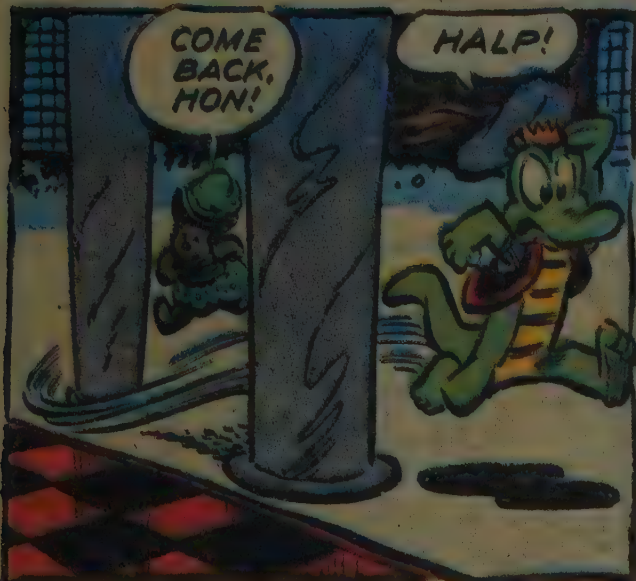


BUT I IS UNDECIDED WHICH OF
YOU IS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL!



COME
BACK,
HON!

HALP!



GANGWAY,
YO' RAGABONES!

PHOO!
WHAT A
PRINCE!





YOU IS
TRIPPED
ME!

RIGHT
OUT THE
DOOR.



IT'S SNOWIN'! YOU
IS THE ONLY ONE
WITH SNOWSHOES!
YOU CAN HELP
ME ESCAPE.



HA! YOU BACK
THERE, YOU
IS ALL
FOILED!



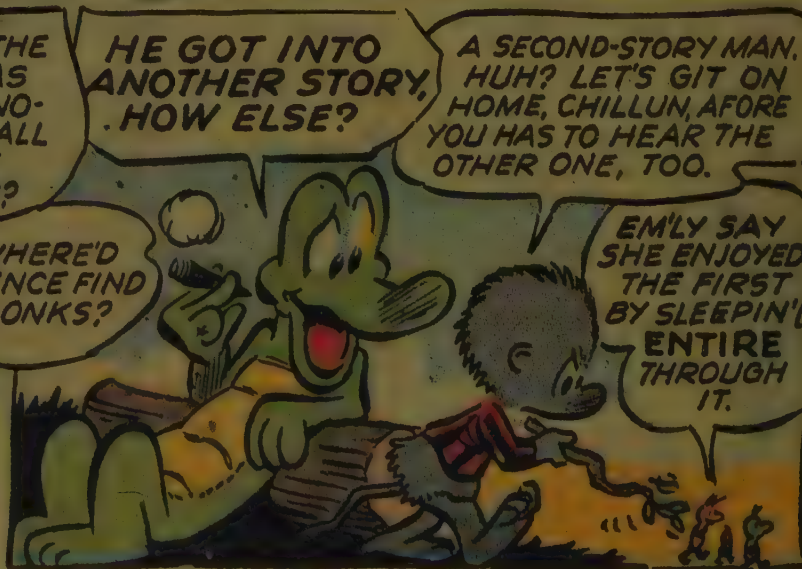
AND SO THE HANDSOME PRINCE
MARRIED GOLDY-LONKS AND THEY
LIVES HAPPY EVER AFTER.

GOLDY-LONKS? HOW
SHE GITTS INTO THE
CINDEROLA STORY?



MAN, YOU DON'T THINK THE
HANDSOME PRINCE WAS
GONE MARRY-UP THAT NO-
COUNT CINDEROLA AN' ALL
THEM FAT
OL' BEARS?

BUT WHERE'D
THIS PRINCE FIND
GOLDY-LONKS?



HE GOT INTO
ANOTHER STORY.
HOW ELSE?

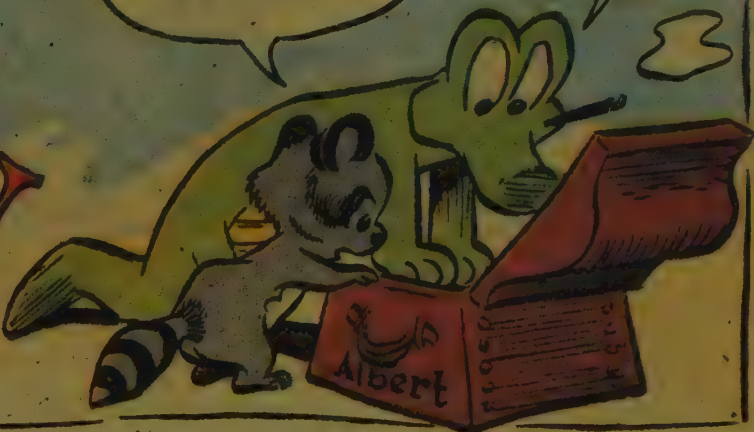
A SECOND-STORY MAN.
HUH? LET'S GIT ON
HOME, CHILLUN, AFORE
YOU HAS TO HEAR THE
OTHER ONE, TOO.

EM'LY SAY
SHE ENJOYED
THE FIRST
BY SLEEPIN'
ENTIRE
THROUGH
IT.

THE BIG Rock Candy quarry

WHAT'S THIS
OL' CHEST
YOU KEEPS,
UNCLE ALBERT?

THIS HERE IS
KNOWED AS A
HOPE CHEST.

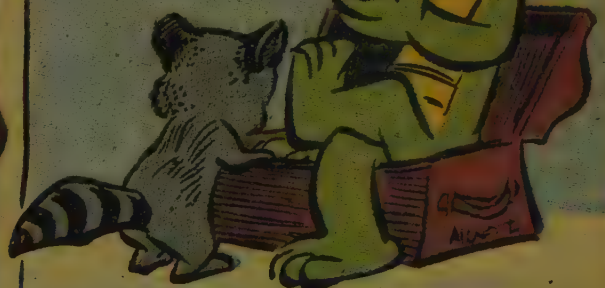


HOPE CHEST? THAT'S
A KIND OF THING
WHAT GAL TYPES
KEEPS DOILIES
AN' TOWELS AN'
STUFF IN—
HOPIN' THEY'LL
GIT MARRIED.

WELL, GALS ISN'T
THE ONLY ONES
WITH
HOPES.

WELL,
WHAT SORT
OF HOPES AN'
JUNK IS YOU
STORED
AWAY?

ALL KINDS OF KEEPSAKES,
CURIOS—



AN' MEDALS GUV AT ME BY
KINGS AND QUINGS AN'
CROWNED HEADS—MEMENTOS
OF MY GLORIOUS PAST. WHEN
I WAS A HERO IN TWELVE AN'
A HALF LANGUAGES.

HOW 'BOUT
THIS UGLY
GREEN
SAUSAGE?
WHAT WAS
IT GUV YOU'
FOR?

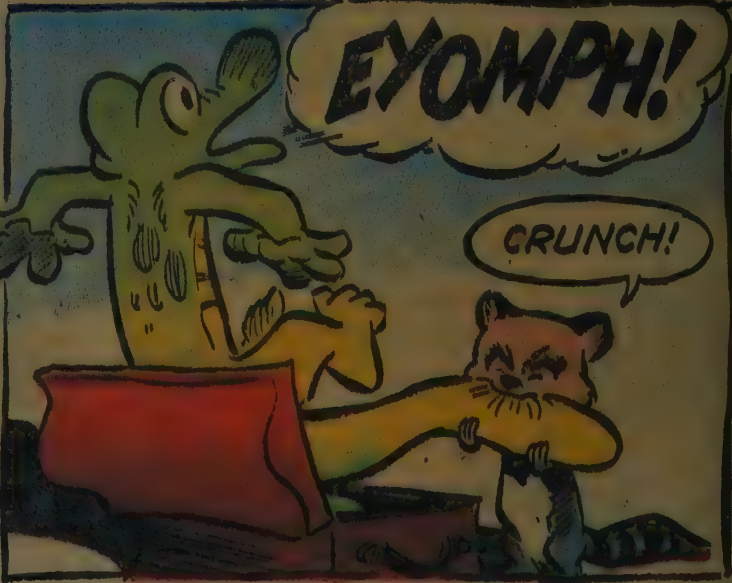
GREEN SAUSAGE? MUST OF
BEEN GUV ME FOR SOME
HEROIC DEED LIKE RESCUIN'
A ARMY OR FIGHTIN' OFF A
FEW
GIANTS.





DOES IT
LOOK LIKE
BOLOGNA?

IT SOUNDS
LIKE IT—
LEMMIE GIVE
IT A TRY.



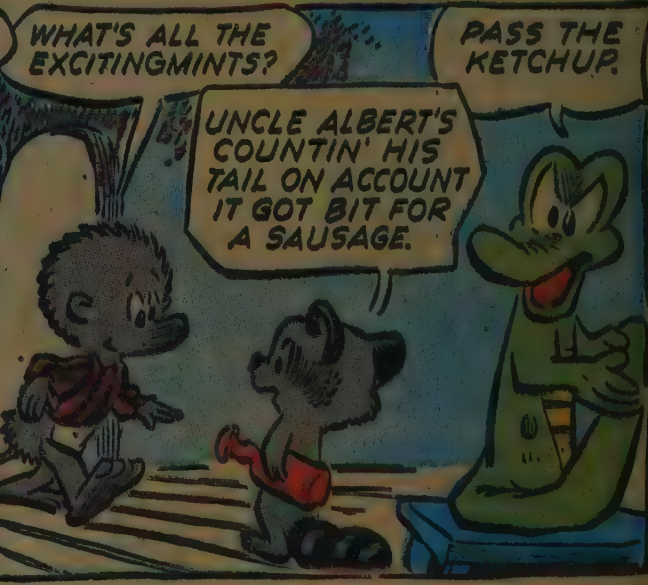
EYOMPH!

CRUNCH!



THAT WAS MY PERSONAL TAIL BONE!

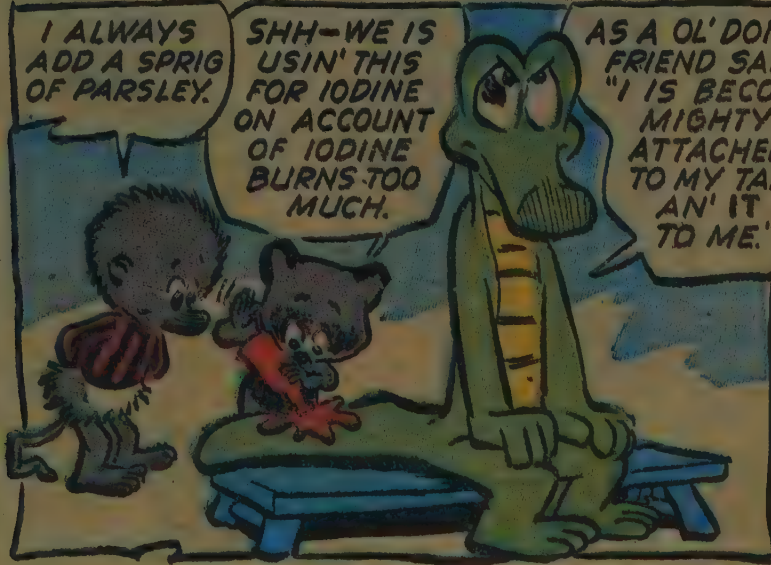
PHOO—WITH A
FLAVOR LIKE
THAT, UNCLE
ALBERT, YOU
WILL ALWAYS
BE SAFE FROM
CANNIBOBBLIES.



WHAT'S ALL THE
EXCITINGMINTS?

PASS THE
KETCHUP.

UNCLE ALBERT'S
COUNTIN' HIS
TAIL ON ACCOUNT
IT GOT BIT FOR
A SAUSAGE.



I ALWAYS
ADD A SPRIG
OF PARSLEY.

SHH—WE IS
USIN' THIS
FOR IODINE
ON ACCOUNT
OF IODINE
BURNS TOO
MUCH.

AS A OL' DONKEY
FRIEND SAID,
"I IS BECOME
MIGHTY
ATTACHED
TO MY TAIL,
AN' IT
TO ME."

IF IT WAS
SPRIGTIME
IN THE ROCKIES,
I'D GIT YOU
SOME PARSLEY.

YOU'D
NEED A
PARSLEY
SHAWL.

DON'T LAY ALL YOUR EGGS IN ONE SEQUENCE...US GOT A COUPLE MILES OF JOLLITY TO ROMP THROUGH BEFORE US IS CLEAR OF THIS COMIC BOOK.

DON'T YOU STRIKE US, SIR, OR YOU WILL RUE IT!

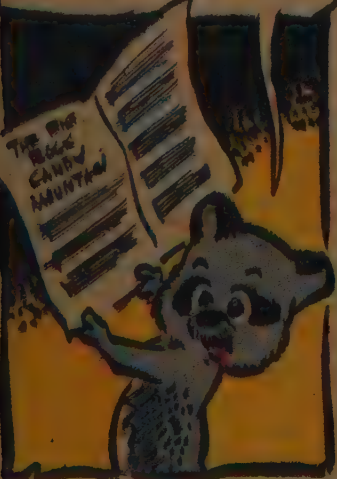


GETTING BUSILY BACK TO WORK, WHAT DO WE FIND IN THE TRUNK WHICH IS OF FURTHER INTEREST?

THIS!



A SONG CALLED "THE BIG ROCK CANDY MOUNTAIN."



WHAT'S SO FOUR-PLYED FASCINATIN' ABOUT THAT?

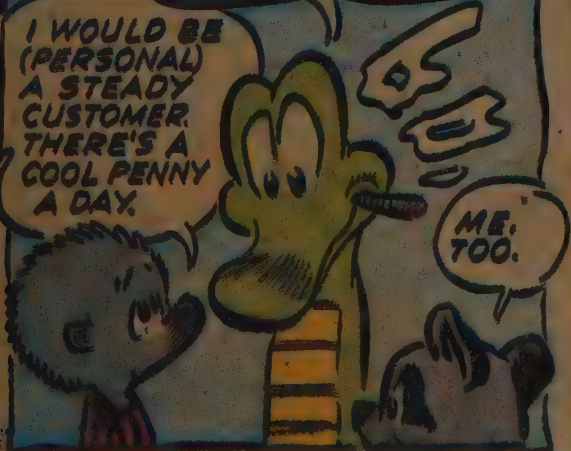


MAN! IF ANYBODY EVER FOUND A ROCK CANDY MOUNTAIN, THEY COULD SET UP A QUARRY AND BE MILLIONAIRES!



THINK I COULD BE A MILLIONAIRE SELLIN' ROCK CANDY?

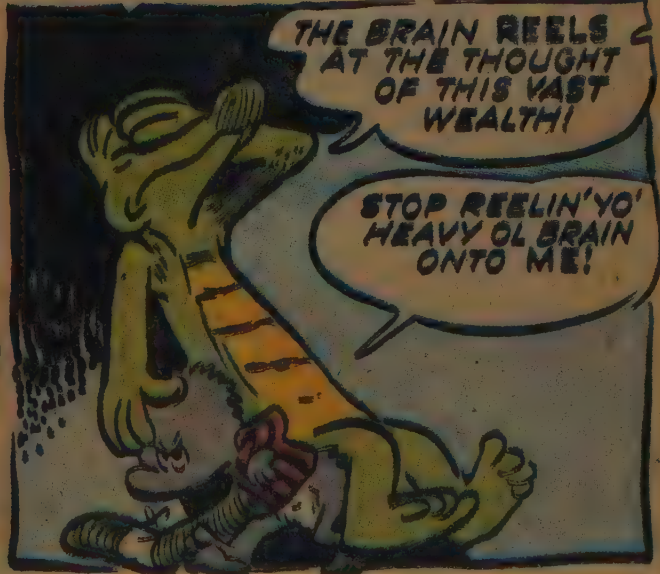
I WOULD BE (PERSONAL) A STEADY CUSTOMER. THERE'S A COOL PENNY A DAY.



ME, TOO.

THE BRAIN REELS AT THE THOUGHT OF THIS VAST WEALTH!

STOP REELIN'YO' HEAVY OL BRAIN ONTO ME!

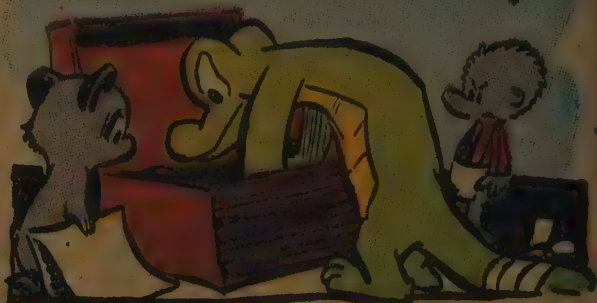
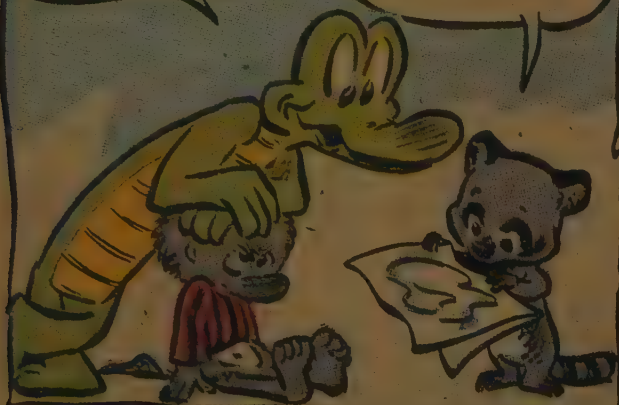


LOOKY! THERE ON
THE BACK OF THE
SHEET MUSIC!
A MAP!

RIGHT! IT LOOKS
LIKE A MAP
TO FIND THE
ROCK CANDY
MOUNTAIN.

FORTUNATELY, I IS
GOT A FULL LINE
OF EQUIPMENT
FOR OUTFITTIN'
SUCH A
EXPEDITION.

ONLY PLACE
I'M GOIN'
IS HOME!
TO BED!



YOU CAN'T DESERT NOW! WE IS
ALL GONNA BE MILLIONAIRES,
AN' YOU GOTTA
TAKE THE BITTER
WITH THE SWEET.

ONCE AGAIN YO'
UNCLE ALBERT
LEADS YOU ON THE
ROADS TO FAMES
AN' FORTUNES.

GONNA NEED
DOCTORS, NURSES
AND APLENTY
BANDAGES.



SO FAR NO ROCK CANDY
MOUNTAIN IS IN SIGHT.

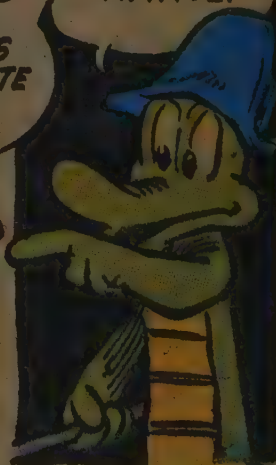
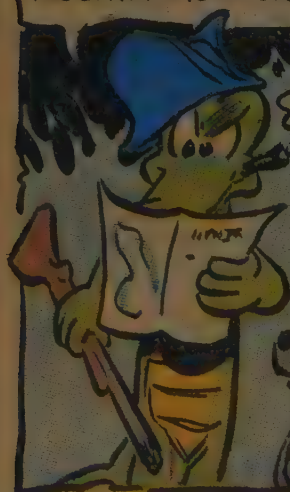
WE
BETTER ASK
DIRECTIONS
OF A NATIVE.

IS YOU A
NATIVE
OF THESE
PARTS?

YEP, AN'
WATCH OUT,
'CAUSE US
NATIVES
MISTRUSTS
THE BIG WHITE
FATHER.

LOOKY!
A REAL
NATIVE!

IF YOU ASKS
ME, I'LL
MISDIRECT
YOU.



NOW WHICH WAY DID THAT
RABBIT GO WHI 'H THE
NOBLE DOG WAS CHASIN'?
...DON'T TELL ME MY
QUARRY HAS ESCAPED!

I LEFT ONE
QUARRY IN
THE HILLS—
THE EASYGOING
DOG IS TOO
GENEROUS.

I SHOULD OF
PURSUED HIM
RELENTLESSLIKE.

HO THERE, NATIVE!
WHICH WAY TO THE
BIG ROCK CANDY
MOUNTAIN?

GADZOOKS, A
BIG GIBBER!
TALKING
GIBBERISH!

PLEASE,
SIR, I
DON'T
QUITE
UNDERSTAND
YOU.

THE ROCK CANDY MOUNTAIN.
WHICH WAY?
WHICH WAY TO
THE QUARRY?

OH, THE QUARRY?
I LEFT IT UP
IN THE HILLS!

GREAT!
A BIG ONE?

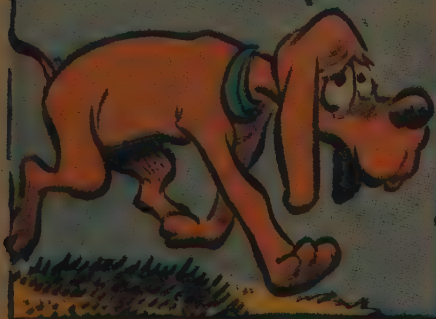
BIGGEST
OL' QUARRY
YOU EVER
LAID A
PEEPER
ON!

THIS WAY TO FAME
AN' FORTUNE, SIRSI!

HOW CAN ANYBODY GET RICH CHASING ROODOLPH, THE RABBIT? MEBBE THERE'S SOMETHING TO RABBIT HUNTING THAT HAS EVADED MY KEEN EYE.

MEANWHILE

WELL, WELL, MY GOOD FELLOW! HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO INTO THE GARBAGE GAME?



EXCEPT, I TRUST YOU AND HAVE LONG ADMIRERD YOU, TURTLE, I WOULDN'T MAKE THIS OFFER TO YOU—HOW'D YOU LIKE TO MAKE AN EASY FORTUNE BY BEING A GARBAGE MAN?

YOU CAN GO FROM DOOR TO DOOR SELLING GARBAGE—IT'S SCARCE THESE DAYS.

YES—MY PRIVATE COLLECTION, I'M WILLIN' TO LET IT GO FOR A SONG.

IS THAT GARBAGE OVER THERE?

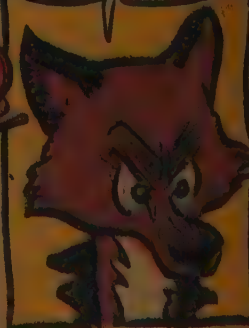


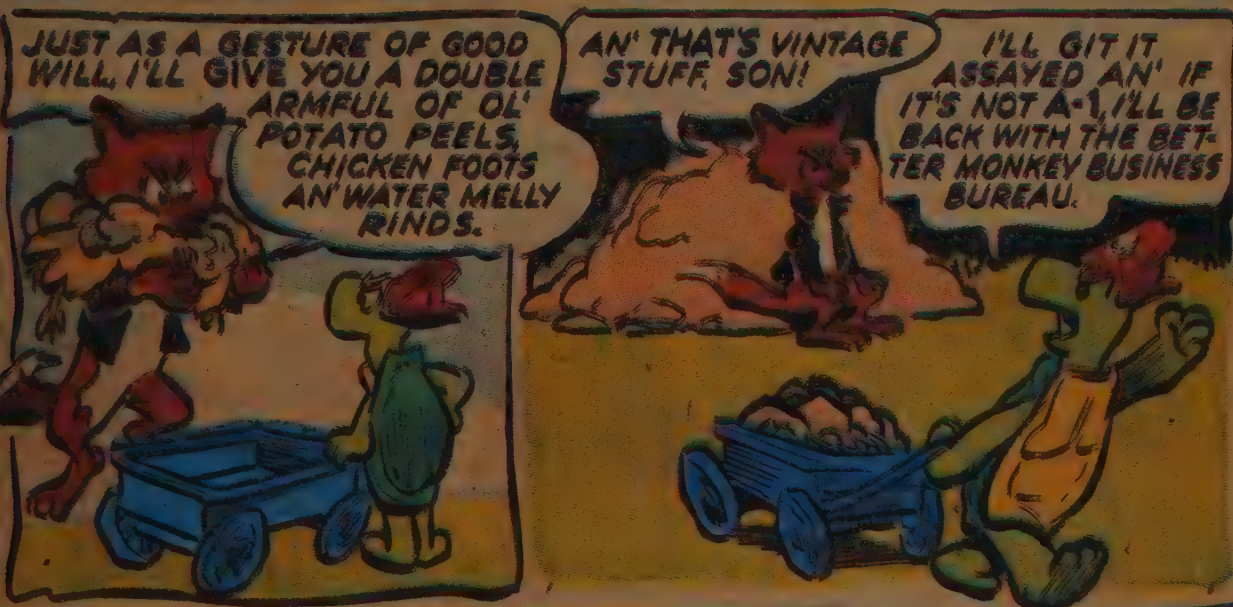
OH, WHISPER ME A WHISPER, DEAR, WHISPER, WHISPER WOO? FOR FRILLING IS THE FROGLING KING. ♪ WHAT'S NEW IN KINKAJOU? ♪ ♪

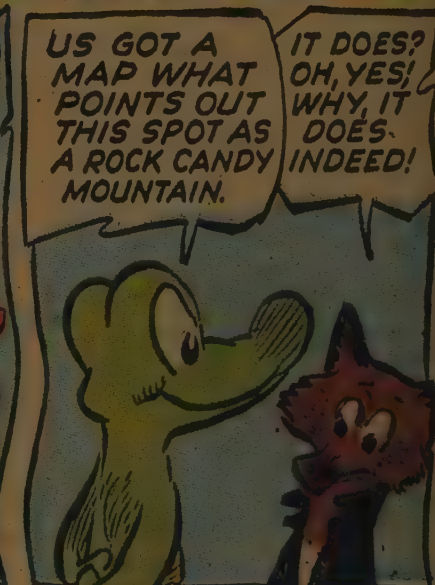
THAT WAS A SONG?

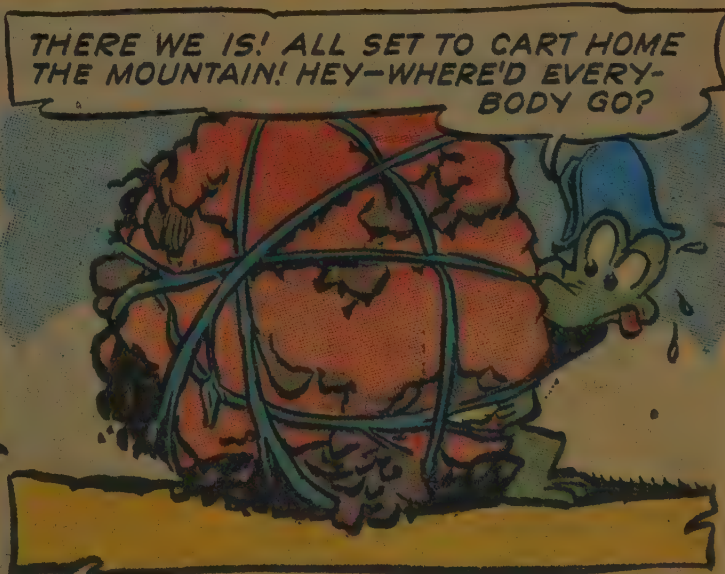
DO I GET THE WHOLE PILE?

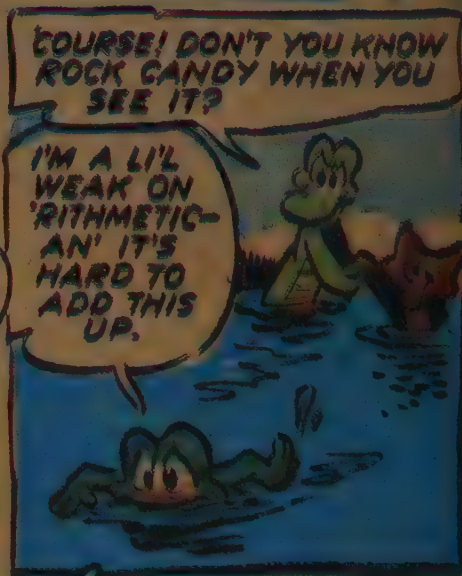
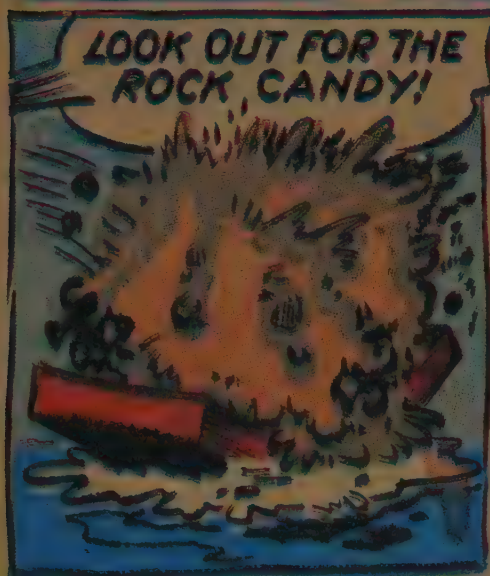
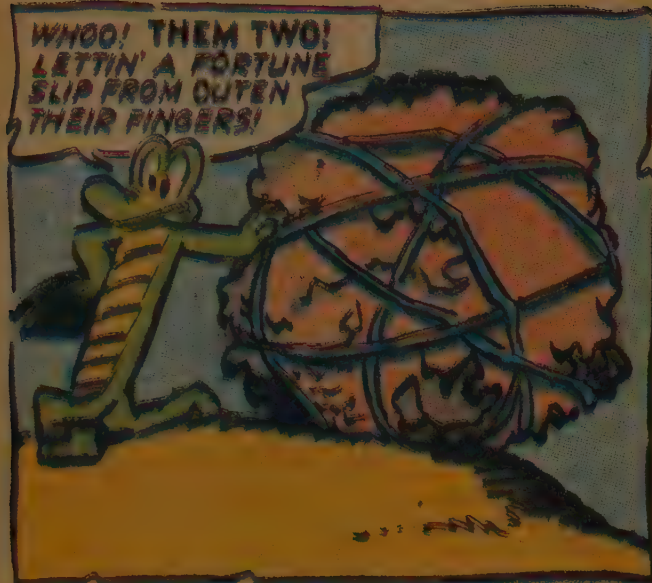
YOU DESERVE IT—BUT THE PRICE WAS JUST A FIGURE OF SPEECH.

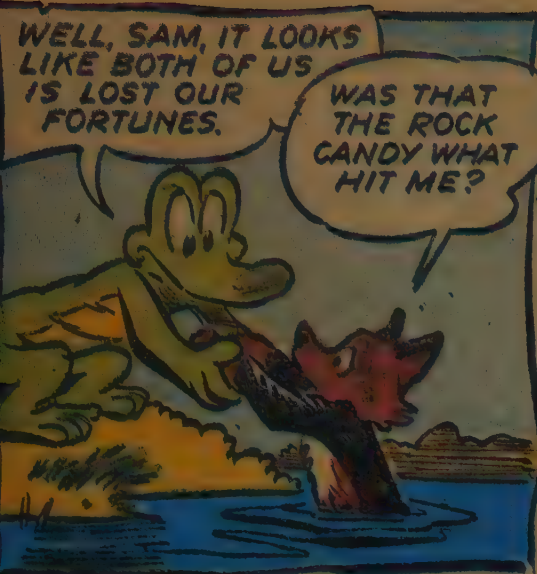












WELL, SAM, IT LOOKS LIKE BOTH OF US IS LOST OUR FORTUNES.

WAS THAT THE ROCK CANDY WHAT HIT ME?



YEP-EASY COME, EASY GO.

NOW WE IS BOTH RUINED.



I ISN'T SO RUINED THAT I CAN'T SMELL A PARTY A-BREWIN'.

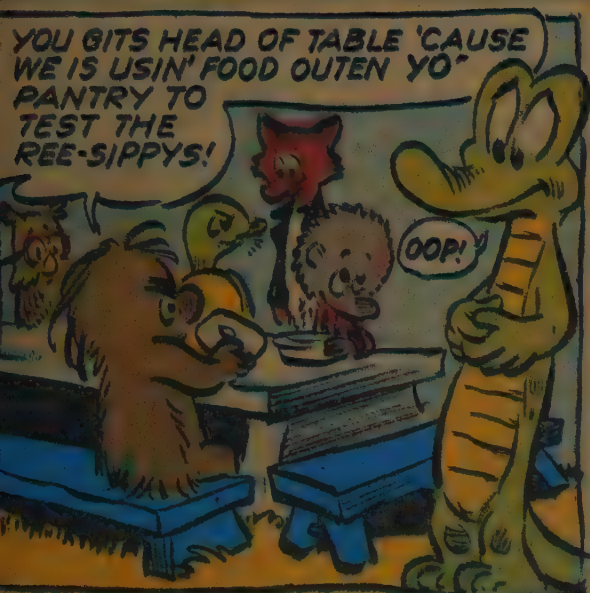


MMMMMMM!

MMMMMMM, INDEED!



HEY, ALBERT, WE FOUND A BIG BOOK OF RECIPES IN YO' HOPE CHEST AN' US IS A-TRYIN' 'EM.



YOU GITTS HEAD OF TABLE 'CAUSE WE IS USIN' FOOD OUTEN YO' PANTRY TO TEST THE REE-SIPPYS!

OOP!



OH WELL—I'LL JES' RESTOCK THE WAY I IS DID AFORE, BY HEAVY OL' BORRY-FYIN'!

I KNOWED YOU WOULDN'T MIND, YOU OL' ALBERT, YOU.

About “The Spirit” and Will Eisner

As comic books boomed in the prewar years, some newspaper syndicates began trying to take advantage of their popularity. The Register and Tribune Syndicate of Des Moines offered a sixteen-page (later eight-page) comic book that newspapers could distribute along with their Sunday comics sections. The comic book first appeared on June 2, 1940, and ran for a little more than twelve years, until October 5, 1952; it appeared in relatively few newspapers, mostly in large eastern cities.

The comic book’s lead feature, *The Spirit*, was written and drawn by Will Eisner (with some help from other writers and cartoonists). Eisner was one of the principals in the small firm that assembled the comic book every week; unlike most comic-book creators, Eisner has always owned at least part of his feature.

Eisner, who was born in New York City on March 6, 1917, had already spent several years producing comic books—complete packages, ready to print—for several publishers by the time he started *The Spirit*. A number of well-known features, like *Sheena*, *Queen of the Jungle*, had been originated by Eisner and the men who worked for him. As Eisner told John Benson, “I was running a shop in which we made comic-book features pretty much the way Ford turned out cars. So perhaps the reason that the Register and Tribune consented to distribute *The Spirit* in the first place was because I had demonstrated my ability as a producer....” Throughout his career in comic books, Eisner remained that rare combination: an artist who was also a capable businessman.

The Spirit himself was a hero from the vigilante mold. His costume, however, amounted to nothing more than a mask and gloves. Eisner resisted pressure from his business partners to make the Spirit a costumed hero of the Batman variety, and so the Spirit remained a cross between a super-hero and a pulp-fiction detective. He was a criminologist named Denny Colt—supposedly dead, but actually living in a hideout in Wildwood Cemetery.

The Spirit, in its first year or so, was not far removed from conventional comic-book stuff of the period. But in 1941, Eisner started making very free and inventive use of the comics medium, as in the first of the three stories included here, and the emphasis began to shift away from the title character.

More than most comics creators, Eisner had the freedom to strike out in new directions; his partners and his syndicate made few demands on him, except that he meet his deadlines. Eisner explained the evolution of *The Spirit* to Benson: “I began to realize who I was writing for”—that is, an

audience dominated by adults, rather than children—and “I suddenly found an opportunity to do what I had really always wanted to do, which was to write ‘seriously’ or write good material, and at the same time stay within the medium I knew and had developed skills for.”

Eisner was drafted in 1942, and *The Spirit* was left in the hands of other cartoonists during the war. When Eisner returned to *The Spirit*, he became pre-eminently a short-story writer who wrote mostly with pictures instead of entirely with words. Probably no other cartoonist has ever made such fluent use of his medium. John Benson, writing in *Panels* magazine, speaks of Eisner’s “effortless visual narrative style, which is so unlabored that most readers are unaware of how much more his pictures tell us than do the pages of most comic books. Like Alfred Hitchcock, Eisner shows his stories instead of telling them. And Eisner’s pictorial sense, like Hitchcock’s, is so integral to his sense of narrative that it’s often overlooked: the type of story favored by the artist is more likely to be recognized—the ‘Hitchcock story’ or the ‘Eisner story’.”

Eisner is, for one thing, a master of the “silent panel” (a panel without dialogue or captions), placing each such panel at the point where its dramatic effect is greatest. And Benson cites as an example of Eisner’s virtuosity his use of “indirect portrayal: we are shown a reaction, or the aftermath of an action, rather than the action itself—and are thereby forced, usually without being aware of it, to imagine bits of action and story elements that Eisner has not actually shown.”

The “Eisner story” could be playful, or serious, or sentimental—or all three at once, like the 1948 story about Gerhard Shnobble that we have included here. But it was always a big-city story (in its atmosphere if not in its setting) and, like city life, it was always flavored with the grotesque.

The other postwar episode that follows originated in a script by Jules Feiffer, who was one of Eisner’s assistants before beginning his own highly successful career as a newspaper and magazine cartoonist; Feiffer told John Benson that the script was “an autobiographical fantasy based on my Bronx upbringing.” (It is also one of the many comic-book stories that shows the influence of radio drama; Feiffer cites *Suspense* as a source.) Eisner always remained the dominant partner in such collaborations, of course, often rewriting a script until it was mostly his own work.

The Spirit himself is not much to be seen in the two postwar stories we have included, and that is true of many of the best postwar *Spirit* stories. Sometimes Eisner had to shoehorn the *Spirit* into what could have been complete and

satisfying short stories without him. Although Eisner depicted his hero in an appealingly tongue-in-cheek manner, the Spirit remained a conventional character in many ways (he was, for example, preternaturally resilient when shot or beaten), and the postwar stories tended to be more interesting the less of the Spirit himself there was in them. Richard Kyle has said of Eisner, "He remained bound to a hero smaller than the truth he had to tell."

Eisner gave less and less of his time to *The Spirit* in the early 1950s, finally abandoning the feature to produce comics for the educational market. But in recent years *The Spirit* has been revived in a bimonthly magazine, now published by Kitchen Sink Enterprises. *The Spirit* magazine includes new material by Eisner as well as reprints of old stories.

M.B.

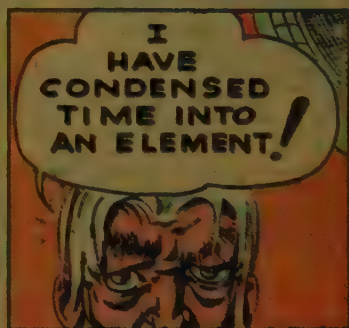
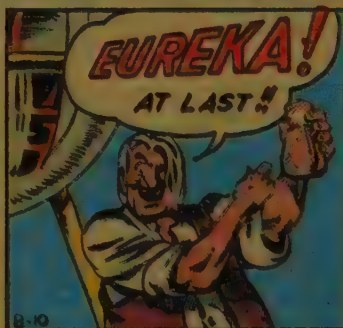
SUNDAY, AUGUST 10, 1941



"...To condemn a thing false or impossible is to assume unto himself the advantage and the power of our common mother nature ----

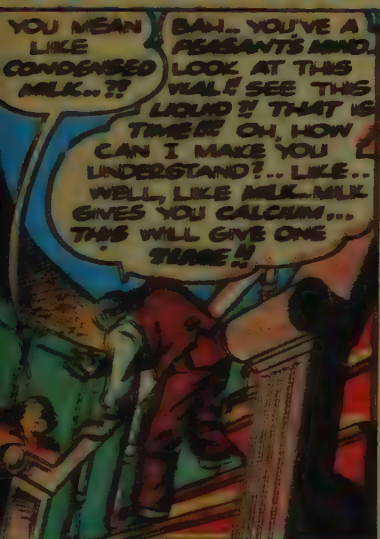
If we term those things monsters or miracles to which our reason cannot attain, how many such do daily present themselves into our sight ???."

Montaigne

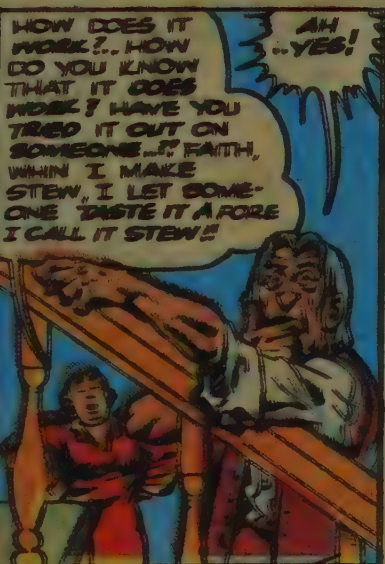
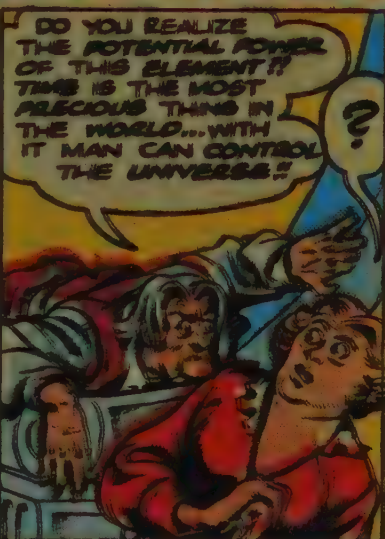


BY WILL EISNER

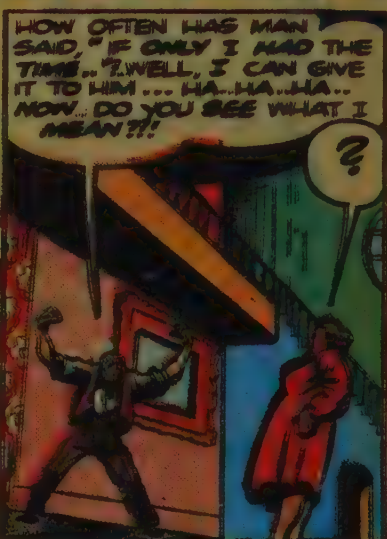
IF AT SOME TIME YOU HAPPEN TO BE IN CENTRAL CITY AND YOU PERCHANCE WALK BY THE OLD MANSION ON CARMEL STREET, PAUSE A SECOND AND SEE IF THE LIGHT BURNS IN THE THIRD STORY WINDOW... FOR, IF IT DOES, THEN YOU MAY BE SURE THAT OLD PROFESSOR CORDA IS STILL WORKING... WORKING TO CREATE A NEW ELEMENT... TIME!!



IT WAS ON A HOT SUMMER NIGHT THAT PROFESSOR CORDA FLUNG OPEN HIS LABORATORY AND ABOVE THE ROAD AND FLASH OF THE THUNDER STORM, SCREAMED ...



GLORY BE... WHAT IS WRONG? WHAT'S HAPPENED?



AT THAT SAME MOMENT IN ANOTHER PART OF THE CITY...



TOMMY!!!
TOMMY, WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?!

WHAT
DO YA
THINK?!

TOMMY!!! PLEASE...
NO MORE CRIME...
YOU'RE ON PAROLE
NOW... IF THEY
CATCH YOU AGAIN...
IT'LL BE JAIL
FOR LIFE...
PLEASE,
TOMMY!!!

NICK
ENNIS
SQUEALED
ON ME
AND HE'S
GONNA
PAY FOR
IT!!!!



NO... NOT
MURDER!!
TOMMY, THINK
OF ME!! THE
BABY!!
YOU'LL BE
CAUGHT!!!

THEY
WON'T
GET ME...
I'VE GOT
IT ALL
FIGURED OUT...
GIT OUTA
MY WAY!!!



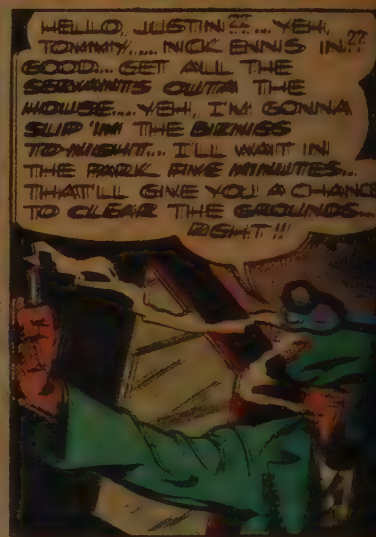
NO!!
I WON'T!!!



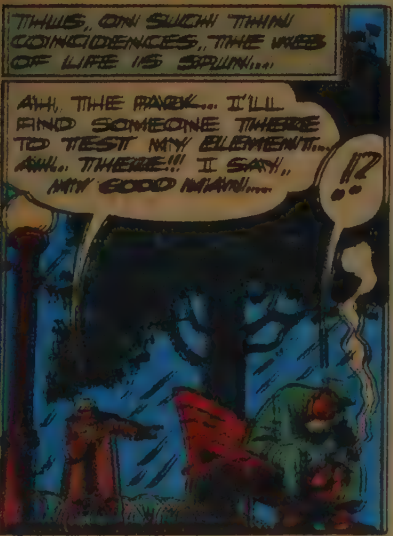
GIT OUTA
MY WAY I
SAID !!!



NO ONE SQUEALS
ON ME AND LIVES!!!
* * * * *

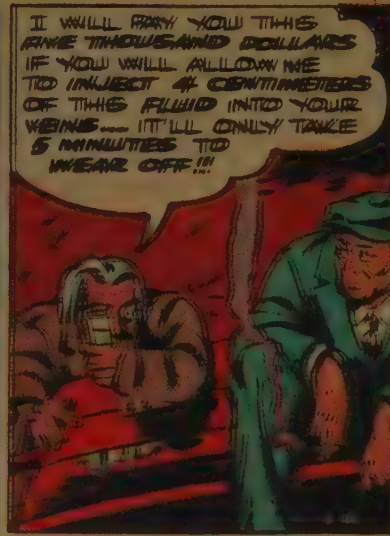


HELLO, JUSTIN??... YEH...
TOMMY... NICK ENNIS IN??
GOOD... GET ALL THE
SERVANTS OUTA THE
HOUSE... YEH, I'M GONNA
SLIP 'IM THE BUSINESS
TODAY... I'LL WAIT IN
THE PARK FIVE MINUTES...
THAT'LL GIVE YOU A CHANCE
TO CLEAR THE GROUNDS...
BESH!!



THUS, ON SUCH THIN
COINCIDENCES, THE WEB
OF LIFE IS SPUN!!!

AH, THE PARK... I'LL
FIND SOMEONE THERE
TO TEST MY ELEMENT...
AWL... THERE!!! I SAY...
MY GOOD MAN!!...



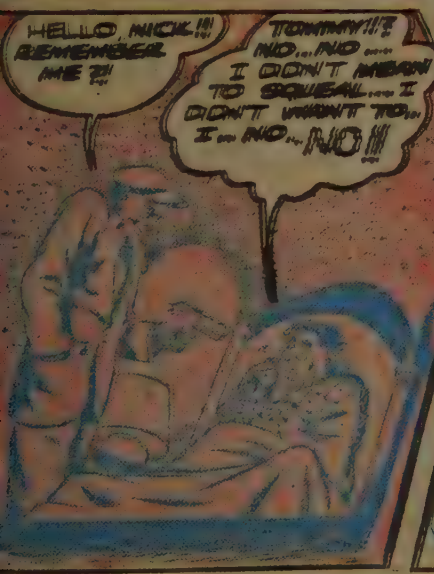
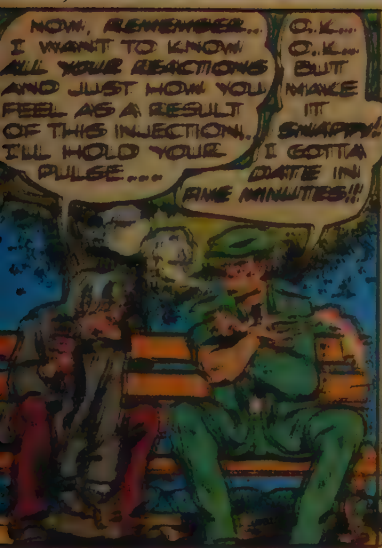
I WILL PAY YOU THIS
FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS
IF YOU WILL ALLOW ME
TO INJECT 4 CENTIMETERS
OF THIS FLUID INTO YOUR
VEINS... IT'LL ONLY TAKE
5 MINUTES TO
WEAR OFF!!!

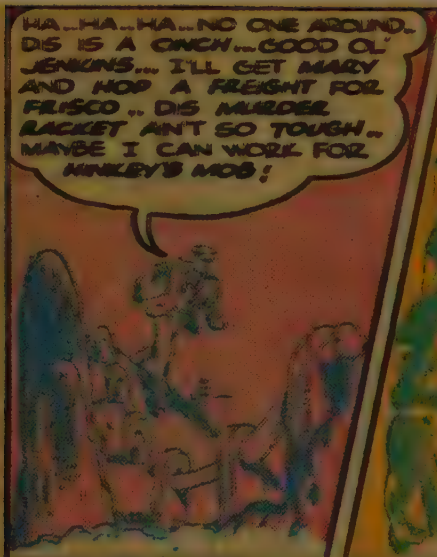


5000 BUCKS...
WHEN? I
COULD MAKE MY
GETAWAY WITH
THAT MUCH...
YEH... WHAT A
BREAK !!!



YEAH,
SURE
MISTER,
I'LL TAKE
YR OFFER!!!









BULLETS
WILL STOP YOU!
YOU'RE NO
SUPERHUMAN!!



THIS IS THE
END FOR YOU,
TOMMY!!

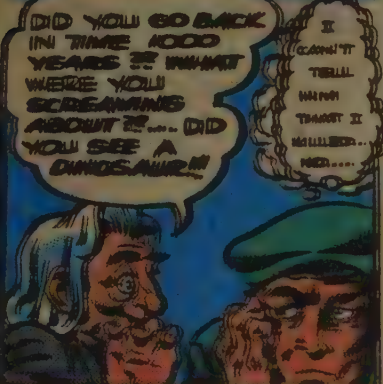
NO...NO...
GO
SPEED!!



HELP!
HELP!
I'M
FALLING...
I'M...



AND ON THE LITTLE PARK
BENCH...



DID YOU GO BACK
IN TIME 1000
YEARS ?? WHAT
WERE YOU
SCREAMING
ABOUT ?? DID
YOU SEE A
DINOSAUR !!

I
CAN'T
TELL
WHAT
THAT I
WILLED...
NO...



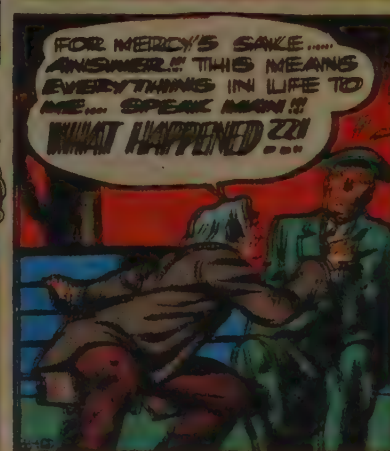
WAKE UP!! ... YOU'RE
SCREAMING ...

EEEEEE
OH



WHY... WHERE
AM I ... SPIRIT ...
I ... DODGE ...

QUICKLY...
TELL ME...
WHAT
HAPPENED...
WHAT DID YOU
SEE ??



FOR MERCY'S SAKE...
ANSWER!! THIS MEANS
EVERYTHING IN LIFE TO
ME... SPEAK MAN!!
WHAT HAPPENED ??



I... ER... I WAS
JUST SLEEPING!!
I DON'T SEE
NOTHING, I TELL
YOU... NOTHING!!

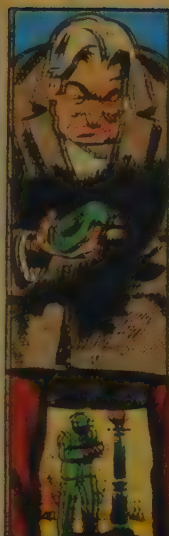
NOTHING
??



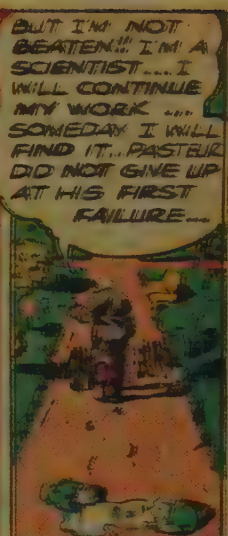
THIRTY-FIVE YEARS OF HEY!! SWEAT AND WORK FOR NOTHING!



OH, YES! HERE!



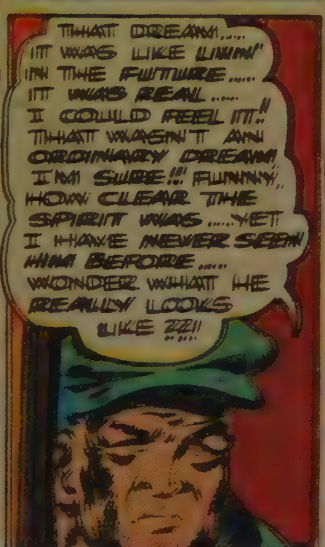
BAH!



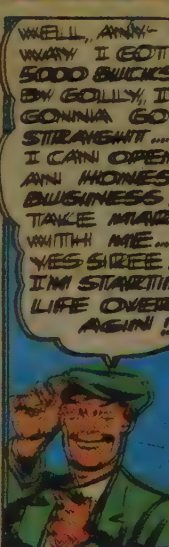
BUT I'M NOT BEATEN!! I'M A SCIENTIST... I WILL CONTINUE MY WORK... SOMEDAY I WILL FIND IT... PASTEUR DID NOT GIVE UP AT HIS FIRST FAILURE...



A FEW FEET AWAY... FIVE MINUTES ARE UP... I... GOSH... SOMEHOW I DON'T THINK I'LL NICK NOW!



THAT DREAM... IT WAS LIKE WINN' IN THE FUTURE... IT WAS REAL... I COULD FEEL IT... THAT WASN'T AN ORDINARY DREAM I'M SURE!! FUNNY, HOW CLEAR THE SPIRIT WAS... YET I HAVE NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE... WONDER WHAT HE REALLY LOOKS LIKE ZEE!



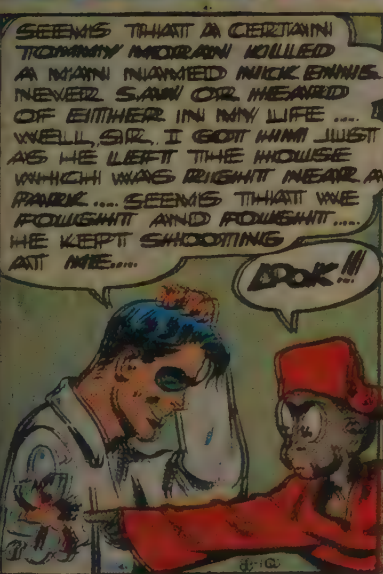
WELL, ANYWAY I GOT 5000 BUCKS!! OH GOLLY, I'M GONNA GO STRAIGHT... I CAN OPEN AN HONEST BUSINESS... TAKE MARY WITH ME... YES SURE... I'M STARTIN' LIFE OVER AGAIN!!



AT THAT MOMENT IN WILDWOOD CEMETERY... WAKE UP, MIST' SART BOSS.. YO' IS TALKIN' IN YO' SLEEP!!



WHY?? OH... OH EBONY... YAKKIN... WHAT A HORRIBLE DREAM I HAD!!



SEEMS THAT A CERTAIN TOMMY MORAN KILLED A MAN NAMED NICK ENNIS. NEVER SAW OR HEARD OF EITHER IN MY LIFE... WELL, SIR, I GOT HIM JUST AS HE LEFT THE HOUSE WHICH WAS RIGHT NEAR A PARK... SEEMS THAT WE FOUGHT AND FOUGHT... HE KEPT SHOOTING AT ME...



YO' DONE HAVE BLOOD ON YO' SHOULDER!! YO' BEEN WOUNDED!!! BY GOD-FREY!! A BULLET WOUND!!





THE SPIRIT

**ACTION
Mystery
ADVENTURE**



BY WILL EISNER

B

EFORE WE BEGIN THIS STORY WE WANT TO
MAKE ONE POINT VERY CLEAR..

THIS IS NOT A FUNNY STORY!!

...AND WHILE THE AUTHOR DOES NOT EXPECT
YOU TO BELIEVE ALL OF THIS...HE FEELS BOUND
TO ASSURE YOU THAT HE CANNOT GUARANTEE
A COMPLETE ABSENCE OF RESEMBLANCE
BETWEEN PERSONS LIVING OR DEAD AND THE
CHARACTERS HERE PORTRAYED.

WE MEAN TO GIVE YOU A SIMPLE ACCOUNT OF
GERHARD SHNOBBLE... BEGINNING AT THE POINT
WHEN HE FIRST DISCOVERED HE COULD FLY. .



PLEASE..... NO LAUGHTER.....

GERHARD SHNOBBLE WAS BORN IN THE BIG CITY..OF ORDINARY PARENTS...AND GREW UP TO BE AN ORDINARY BOY...



EXCEPT FOR ONE LITTLE THING...

ONE DAY...ON HIS EIGHTH BIRTHDAY, TO BE EXACT... YOUNG GERHARD SLIPPED AND FELL OFF A ROOF.

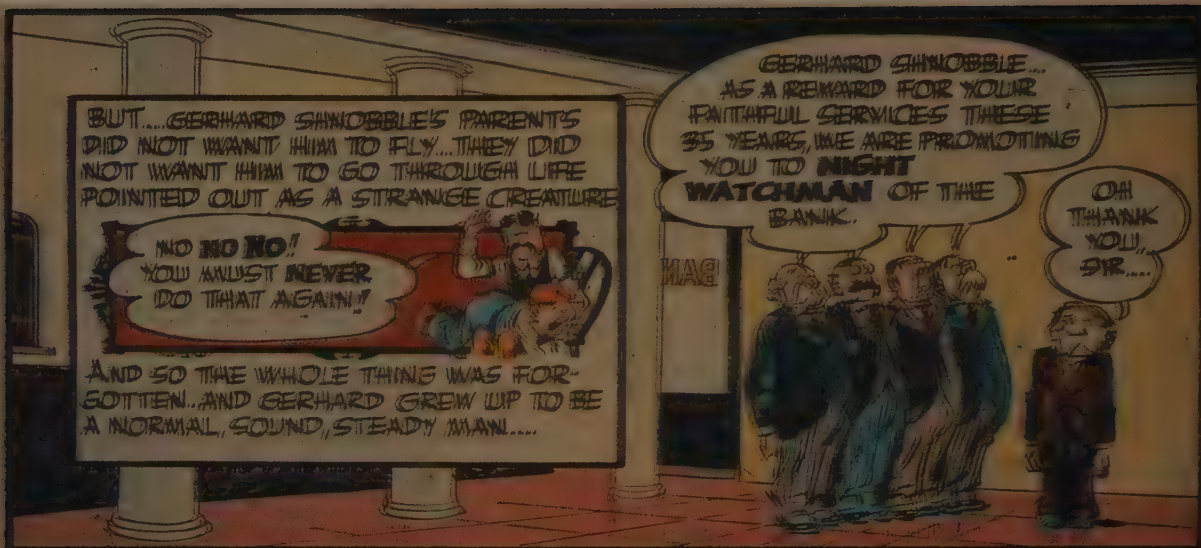
OF!

IN MIDAIR HE TWISTED AND TURNED IN AN EFFORT TO SAVE HIMSELF. **SUDDENLY**

...INSTEAD OF FALLING, HE FLEW GRACEFULLY TO EARTH.

HEY, MA... LOOKA ME... I'M FLYIN'!







WHILE GERHARD SHNOBBLE BLUNDERS
SADLY THROUGH THE STREETS...A MANHUNT
FOR THE BANK ROBBERS TAKES FORM.

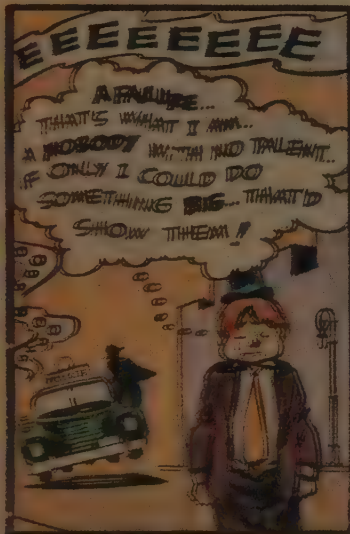
EVERY
STREET
AND TRAIN
DEPOT IS
BLOCKED..
THEY CAN'T
GET OUT.

THEY COULD
ESCAPE BY
HELICOPTER,
DOLAN!

HOLY SMOKE,
SPIRIT...YOU GOT
SOMETHING
THERE...WE HAD A
REPORT THAT A
HELICOPTER
LANDED ON THE
ELECTRIC
BUILDING LAST NIGHT!

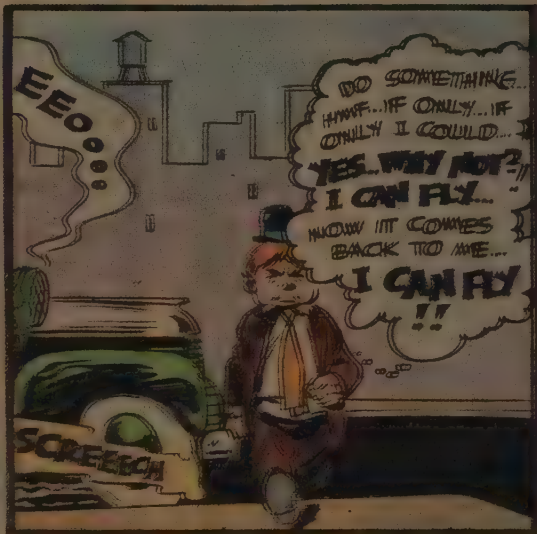


WELL...WHAT ARE
WE WAITING FOR?
LET'S GET THERE
AT ONCE!!



EEEEEEEEEE

ARRR...
THAT'S WHAT I AM...
A NOBODY WITH NO TALENT...
IF ONLY I COULD DO
SOMETHING BIG... THAT'D
SHOW THEM!



EEO...

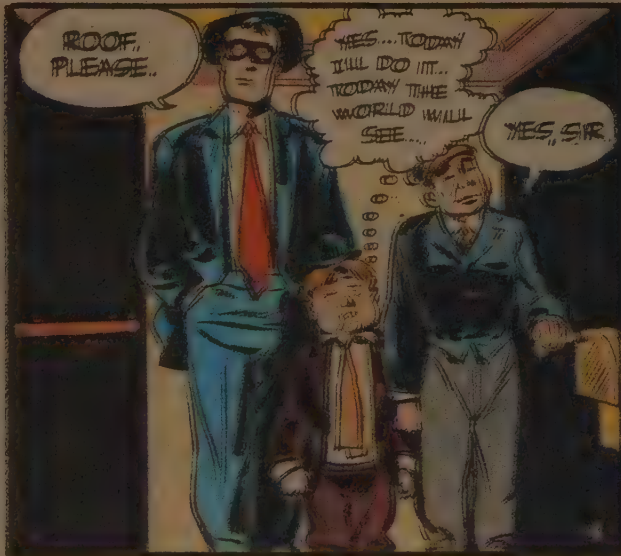
DO SOMETHING...
HMM... IF ONLY... IF
ONLY I COULD...
YES... WHY NOT?
I CAN FLY...
NOW IT COMES
BACK TO ME...
I CAN FLY!!



SURROUND THE
BUILDING MEN...
THE SPIRIT IS
GOING UP AFTER
THEM.

HOLD
THAT
ELEVATOR
!!

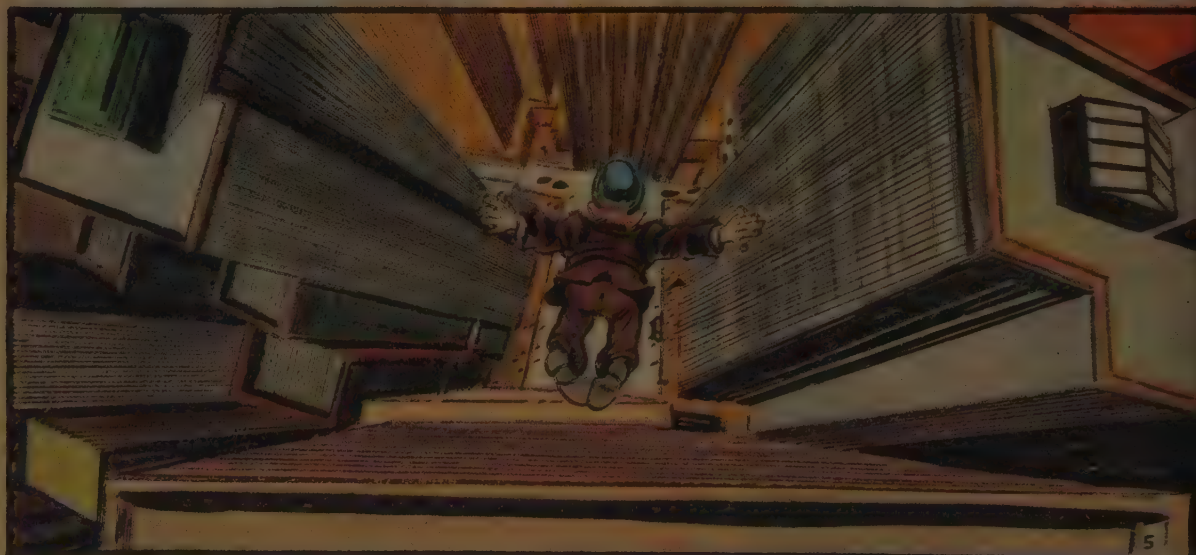
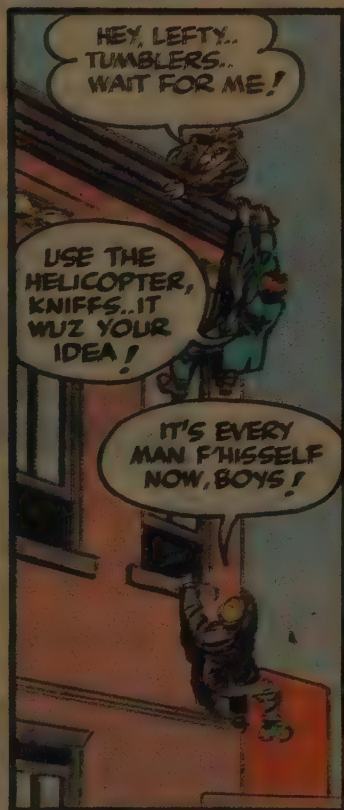
I'LL SHOW
THE WORLD...
I'LL BE
FAMOUS...
I'LL FLY, FLY!

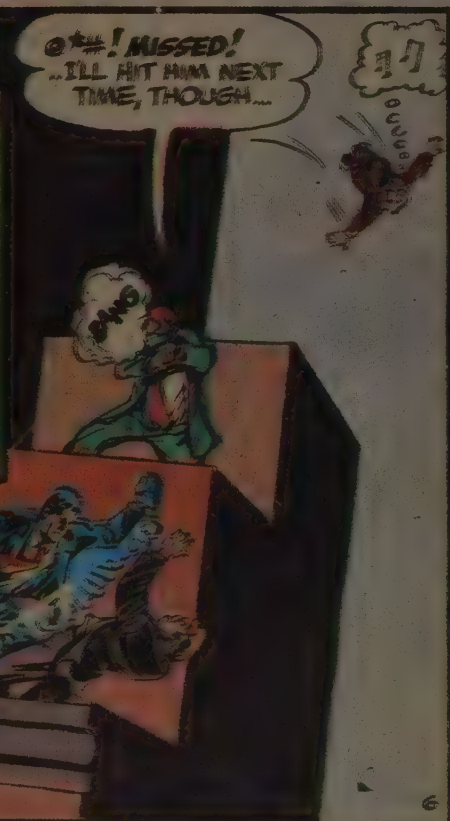
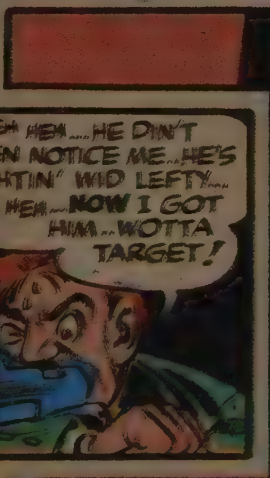
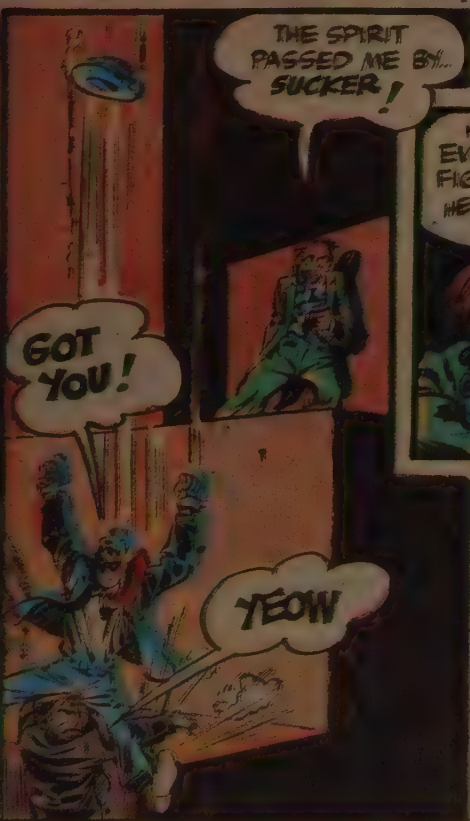


ROOF,
PLEASE..

YES... TODAY
I'LL DO IT...
TODAY THE
WORLD WILL
SEE...

YES, SIR







AND SO... LIFELESS...GERHARD SHINOBBLE FLUTTERED
EARTHWARD...**BUT DO NOT WEEP FOR SHINOBBLE...**



**RATHER SHED A TEAR FOR ALL
MANKIND....**
FOR NOT ONE PERSON IN THE
ENTIRE CROWD THAT WATCHED
HIS BODY BEING CARTED AWAY....
NOT ONE OF THEM KNEW
OR EVEN SUSPECTED THAT
ON THIS DAY GERHARD SHINOBBLE
HAD FLOWN.



THE SPIRIT

**ACTION
Mystery
ADVENTURE**

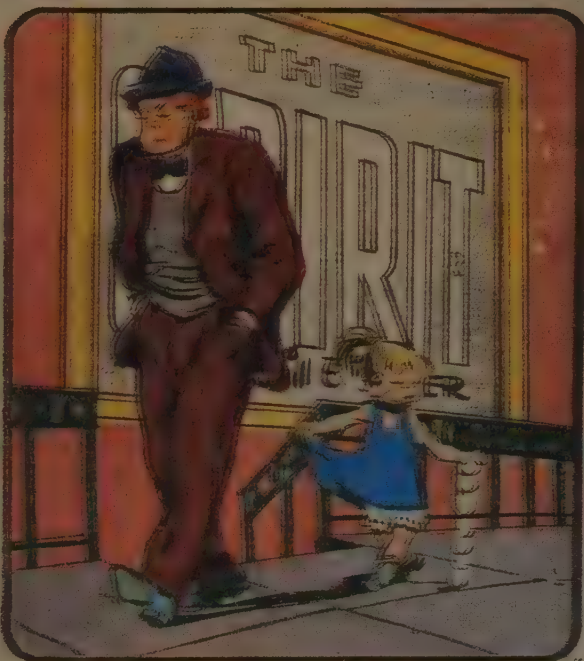
It will take you ten minutes
to read this story....

.... a very short time in any man's
lifetime..



But these ten minutes that you will
spend here are an eternity for one man..

For they are the last ten minutes
in Freddy's life.



The time
is now
10:31



TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK

...AND THAT'S THE BALL
GAME! FOR THE BADGERS,
FOUR RUNS, TEN HITS, AND
NO ERRORS... FOR THE
ORIOLES, ONE RUN, SIX HITS,
AND ONE ERROR...
THESE WERE "CHICK"
THINKS

MAX'S CANDY

NUTS!
I GOT THE
ORIOLES
THIS WEEK, SO
ALL THEY GET
IN SIX DAYS
IS THREE
RUNS!

BELIEVE ME, FREDDY,
Y'CAN'T WIN ON
THESE POOLS!
ALWAYS I SAID
FREDDY IS A SMART
BOY... HE DON'T
GAMBLE!
MMM... STILL PLAYIN'
THE PIN-BALL
MACHINE?

WHAT'S IT
LOOK LIKE
I'M DOIN'?

A
CHOCOLATE
SUGAR CONE,
MAX.

SO DON'T GET SORE!
IN THIS HEAT Y'DON'T
WANNA EXERT Y'SELF!
HEW... IMAGINE...
IN SEPTEMBER,
HEAT LIKE
NOW!

CHICKEN!
TILT!

TILT... TILT!
ON AND OFF LIKE
NEON LIGHTS...
FREDDY'S LIFE
STORY... ONE
BIG TILT!

GIMME
AN EGG
CREAM,
MAX!
I'LL PAY YA
TUESDAY.

HEY LOOK!
TH' LATEST
TRUE
HORROR
ROMANCES!

ON BOY!
LOOKA THIS
TRUE
LOVE
STUFF!

FREDDY...
THE
GOOD
BOY...
THAT'S ME...
"LOOKIT
FREDDY... SEE,
HE TAKES
CARE OF
HIS FAMILY...
A NICE
BOY!"

I'M BURNIN' UP! I'M CHOKIN'!
I CAN'T TAKE THIS NO MORE!
I DON'T HAVE TO...
AND... **I WON'T!**

HELLO...

RING
RING

YEH...
OK...
HOLD THE
WIRE...

HEY, YOU KIDS... GET
MRS. SCHMIDT
IN THE NEXT HOUSE...
SHE'S WANTED
ON THE PHONE!

WE'RE ALL ALONE
NOW... IT'LL TAKE
'EM FIVE MINUTES
TO GET MRS.
SCHMIDT...
**IT'S TIME,
MAX...
THIS IS IT,
MAX!!**

MOVE
OVER,
HUM,
FREDDY?
I WANNA
SWEEP...

The time
is now
10:33



TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK



WOW...AIN'T THIS
HEAT MURDER?
I'M TELLIN' YA
HEAT LIKE THIS CAN
KILL YA...CAN Y'
IMAGINE HEAT LIKE
THIS IN SEPTEMBER?

MAX!



OH... NICE GUN
FREDDY... WHERE'D YA
PICK IT UP? I ONCE
HAD A .45... PICKED
IT UP IN THE FIRST
WAR... I...

EMPTY
OUT THE
TILL
MAX.

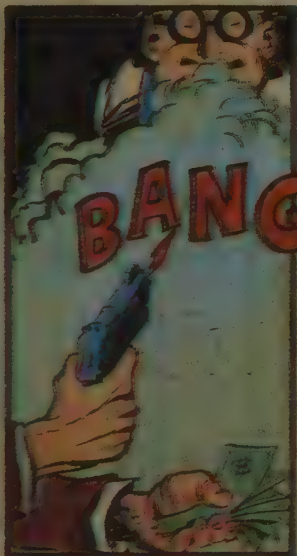


FREDDY!... WHAT
S THIS A JOKE
R SUMPIN'? CUT
TH' COMEDY!

OK.
I'LL
DO IT
MYSELF!



NO-NO-
DON'T TOUCH
THAT, YOU
BUMMER



BANG



FREDDY... YOU ARE ONE
OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD
BOYS... I KNOW YOU...
SINCE... YOU WAS... A... NO...



MAX... I DIDN'T
MEAN IT... BELIEVE
ME, MAX...

I NEEDED DOUGH TO
LEAVE TOWN... I'M SICK O'
THIS BLOCK... A FRESH
START... THAT'S ALL
I WANT...



MAX... GET UP...
HA HA...
STOP KIDDIN' MAX...
F'HEAVEN'S SAKE
GET UP!



I'M MRS.
SCHMIDT... WHERE'S
MY PHONE CALL...
WHICH BOOTH?



HELLO, HELLO...
WHO? CHARLIE?
OH, HELLO
CHARLIE... YEAH...
CHARLIE...

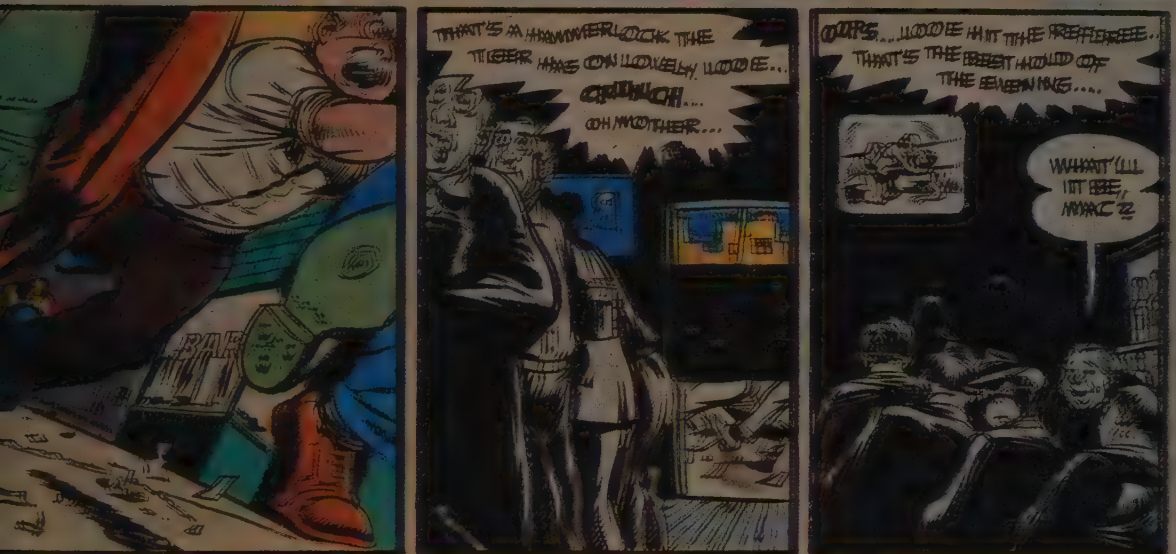
HIYA, FREDDY!
WHAT'RE YOU
DOIN'
BEHIND THE
COUNTER?
WHERE'S
MAX?

The time
now is
10:35



TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK

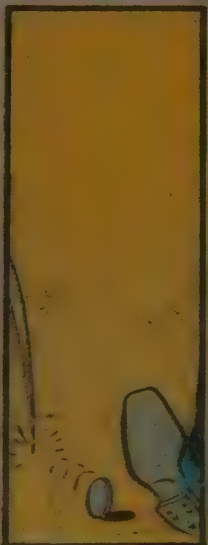
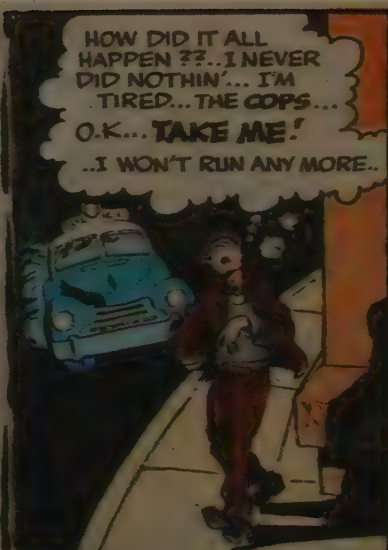




The time
now is
10:39



TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK





TICK TICK
TICK TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK

13

OPEN
THE DOOR
OPE...

EEEEK!

SO MANY
OF THEM ARE
KIDS DOLAN!
THEY BREAK
EM IN YOUNG
MIND HERE!
CONSIDER JUST
IT WAS THAT
STARTED
CRIME
ER...

**LATE...
LATE!!**

DOMINANT "C"

ANNUITY
MAN'S



About E.C.

The initials "E.C." on comic-book covers stood at first for "Educational Comics." When M. C. Gaines started E.C. in the mid-1940s, the company was indeed "educational," publishing comic-book versions of the Bible and American history. After Gaines died in a boating accident in 1947, his son William M. Gaines took over the company and shifted its emphasis toward more commercial fare—westerns, romance comics, and crime titles (E.C. came to stand for "Entertaining Comics"). In 1949, horror stories—told by the Vault Keeper and the Crypt Keeper—edged into E.C.'s crime comics, and in 1950, E.C. began publishing three unabashed horror titles. The success of these comic books spawned the flood of horror comics, from many publishers, in the early 1950s.

Also in 1950, E.C. began publishing two science-fiction comic books, *Weird Science* and *Weird Fantasy*. Earlier science-fiction comics were "space operas," along the lines of *Buck Rogers*, but the E.C. comic books tried to approximate, in comics form, the work of serious science-fiction writers. The science-fiction comic books did not sell well, but William Gaines kept them alive with the profits from the horror comics—a rare and probably unique instance of a publisher's supporting comic books because he cared about them.

Al Feldstein was the principal editor of the horror and science-fiction comic books. Unlike the editors of most comic books, Feldstein and the other E.C. editors wrote most of their own stories—and illustrated some of them, too. Like Will Eisner, they worked in the short-story form (E.C.'s stories were only six to eight pages long), but unlike Eisner, the E.C. editors had no need to incorporate continuing characters into their stories; except for the "hosts" of the horror comics, very few E.C. characters made more than one appearance.

Feldstein relied on literary models: he adhered to the idea that short stories had to have surprise endings, and he used captions to tell his stories, rather than to add meaning to the drawings that the captions accompanied. Harvey Kurtzman, the other major E.C. editor, did not lean on literary devices to the same extent. More important, he brought to his work as editor and writer a particularly valuable trait: in a field dominated by fantasies, he tried never to lose sight of reality.

Kurtzman, who was born in Manhattan in 1924, illustrated a number of science-fiction stories for E.C. before he began editing E.C.'s war comic books, *Two-Fisted Tales* and *Frontline Combat*. In the war comics, Kurtzman tried to depict the life of men in combat with a realism that was missing from other comic books. He engaged in orgies of

research, spending countless hours in the New York Public Library. In one of the most famous examples of Kurtzman's desire for authenticity, he sent his assistant Jerry De Fuccio down in a submarine so that the onomatopoeic words he would use to represent the sounds made by a submerged submarine would be accurate.

Kurtzman relied heavily on such artists as Jack Davis and John Severin, but he illustrated some of his best war stories himself. His drawings were never slick, but his brushwork was flowing, direct, and energetic—qualities that were perfect for the subject matter—and the two war stories we have chosen for this book, *Air Burst* and *Corpse on the Imjin*, were illustrated as well as written by Kurtzman. *Air Burst*, published while the Korean war was still being fought, is notable for its sympathetic depiction of the Chinese enemy. *Corpse on the Imjin* gives war a psychological as well as a physical reality (in a caption, the American soldier's mind returns to childhood and "dunking" as he struggles in the water with the enemy soldier).

The war comics required so much work that they wore Kurtzman out, and in 1952, while recovering from a bout with jaundice, he decided he wanted to try something less demanding. This turned out to be *Mad*—which was, in its original incarnation as a comic book, a vigorous satirical assault on popular culture.

In *Mad*, Kurtzman spoofed movies, comic strips, and even "classic" popular fiction like *Frankenstein* and the Sherlock Holmes stories, but he may have felt a little uneasy about poking fun at artifacts that were more widely accepted as worthwhile than comic books were. In any case, Kurtzman was probably at his best when he was going after other comic books and "kiddie" TV shows like *Captain Video* and *Howdy Doody*. In *Superduperman*, Kurtzman ridicules the idea that within our unimpressive exteriors there lurk "supermen"—that one day those who scorn us will see our true worth and confess their error. (And along the way, he points out that an all-powerful hero's altruism cannot be taken for granted.) Similarly, Kurtzman bears down on *Howdy Doody*, where he finds a veneer of patronizing jollity that cannot camouflage a hard sell to a particularly vulnerable audience. On *Mad*, Kurtzman collaborated with several fine artists, two of whom, Wallace Wood and Bill Elder, are represented here. Wood and Elder themselves invented many of the bizarre details that enriched *Mad*'s panels.

All of the E. C. artists were encouraged to work freely in their own styles (some publishers wanted their artists to squeeze themselves into an anonymous "house style"), but

the editors always remained firmly in control. For example, when an artist named Bernard Krigstein was assigned by Al Feldstein to a story called *Master Race* in 1954, he was given six sheets of illustration board with the captions and the dialogue already lettered and in place; his job was to provide illustrations that matched this script. Instead, he expanded the story to eight pages (with the wary approval of Feldstein and William Gaines), by cutting up the lettering and pasting it on new boards. E.C.'s stories typically had six or seven panels per page; Krigstein added panels not just by making the story longer but by using more panels per page. Krigstein told John Benson and Bhub Stewart in an interview that where the script called for three panels, "I might have put in nine panels. Because it's what happens between these panels that's so fascinating." As Krigstein revised and expanded *Master Race*, he created one of the most interesting and admired of all comic-book stories.

Krigstein, who was born in Brooklyn in 1919, came late to E.C. (his work first appeared in issues with 1954 dates) after free-lancing for other comics publishers. He was greatly intrigued by the comics form, and particularly by the way stories are broken down into panels. More than most comic-book illustrators, he was aware of the effects possible by changing the shapes and arrangements of panels. In *Master Race*, Krigstein sometimes seems to be borrowing from film techniques, as many other cartoonists did, but he is up to something different. In the panels on the last page of *Master Race*, Krigstein has not imitated the flurry of images in a film with rapid cutting. He has instead dissected the action, giving his drawings a dreadful clarity that film could not match. His work has a cool objectivity that is unique in the work of the leading comic-book creators. Compare, for example, the death in the subway that comes on the last page of *Master Race* with the one that occurs on the last page of the 1949 *Spirit* story earlier in this book.

In 1954, a public outcry against comic books drove E.C.'s best sellers—the horror and crime comics—from the newsstands, and *Master Race* was published in the first issue of *Impact*, one of a half dozen "New Direction" titles that E.C. introduced late in 1954 and early in 1955 to take their place. The "New Direction" titles grasped desperately for a mature audience (one of the new titles was *Psychoanalysis*) and could not find it. The E.C. line—caught between declining sales and the new Comics Code—struggled for a year, until Gaines finally gave up and discontinued all of his comic books.

Mad survived. Gaines and Kurtzman had converted it into a twenty-five-cent, black-and-white magazine; as such,

it was not subject to the Comics Code. Kurtzman and Gaines quarreled and Kurtzman left *Mad* after a few issues of the new magazine; he was replaced by Al Feldstein. *Mad* continues, as one of the great success stories in American publishing.

Kurtzman, after editing several new satire magazines that failed to catch on, did the *Little Annie Fanny* stories in *Playboy*. Bernard Krigstein worked for a time in commercial art, and more recently has been a teacher and a painter.

M.B.

THE SCENE BELOW IS IN KOREA!! THE MEN YOU SEE ARE PART OF THE REELING, BLEEDING CHINESE ARMY THAT IS SCRAMBLING BACK FROM ITS BIG SPRING OFFENSIVE! THE SPURTING DUST AT THEIR FEET IS BEING KICKED UP BY THE SPLINTERED STEEL OF AN...

AIR BURST!



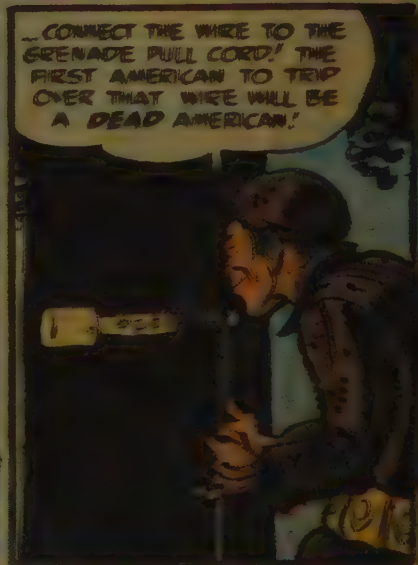
THAT HELLISH AMERICAN ARTILLERY DOES NOT LET UP FOR A MOMENT!

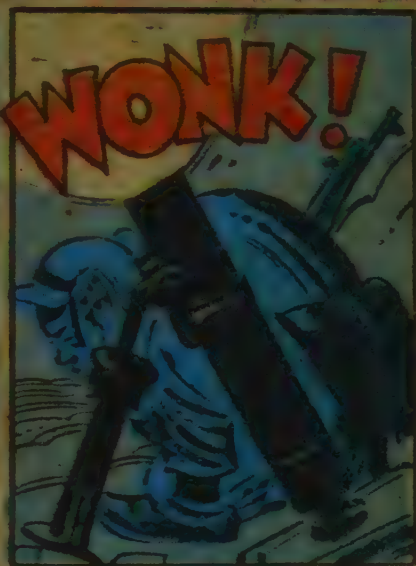
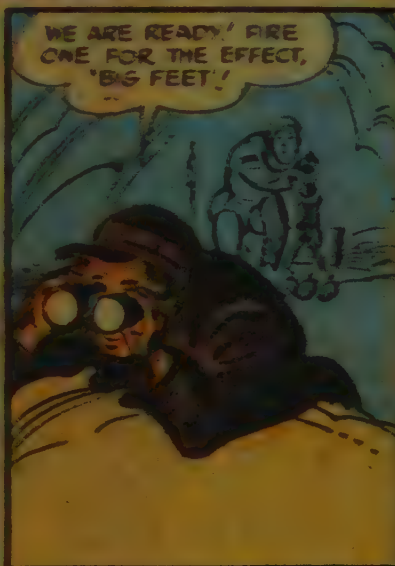
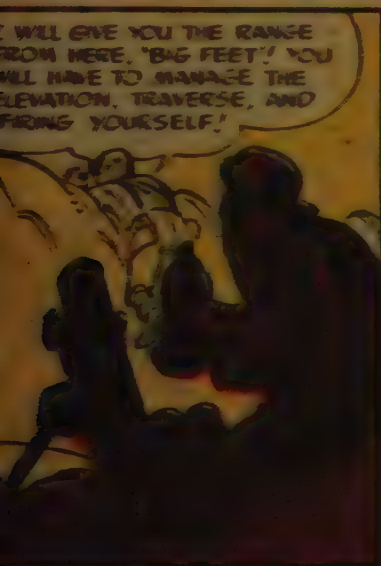
LET US GET AWAY FROM HERE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE!



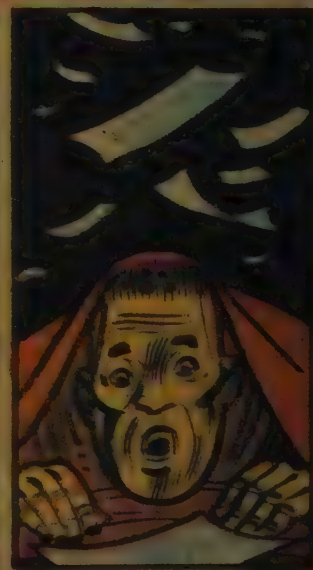
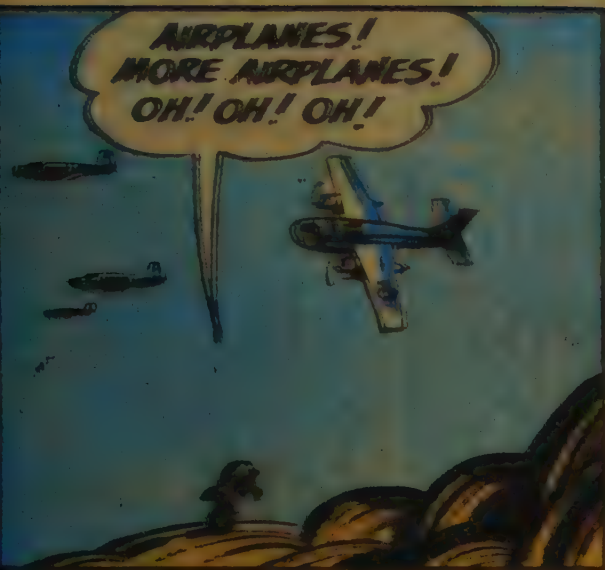
LEE! OUR WHOLE MORTAR SQUAD IS DEAD!

THERE ARE STILL FOUR OF US! COME, 'BIG FEET'! LIFT THAT MORTAR BARREL AND RUN!











THE MORTAR SQUAD IS NO MORE!
LEE SPRAWLS ON THE PATH...
TWICE KILLED, LONG DEAD!

POOR CLUMSY "BIG FEET" LIES
WITH HIS FACE IN THE BLOODY
DIRT, HIS BIG FOOT CAUGHT ON A WIRE!

THE WIRE TEARS TO THE RINGS OF
PULL COED DANGLED BENEATH
THE REMAINS OF A HAND GREN



IT IS A DARK DAY IN MAY! LIGHTNING FLICKERS IN THE SOUTH KOREAN HILLS, AND A STORM WIND ROARS OVER THE IMJIN RIVER! OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE RAIN SWOLLEN IMJIN, A LONELY CORPSE FLOATS WITH THE RUBBLE DOWN TO THE SEA! FOR THIS IS WHAT OUR STORY IS ABOUT! A...

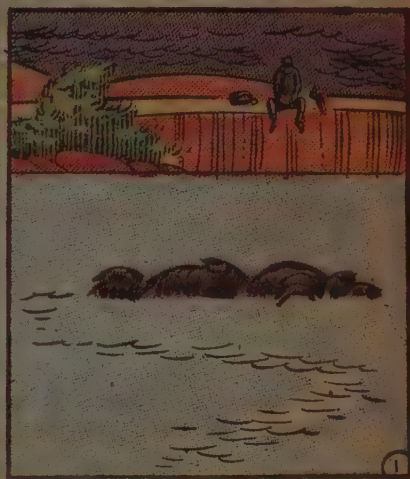
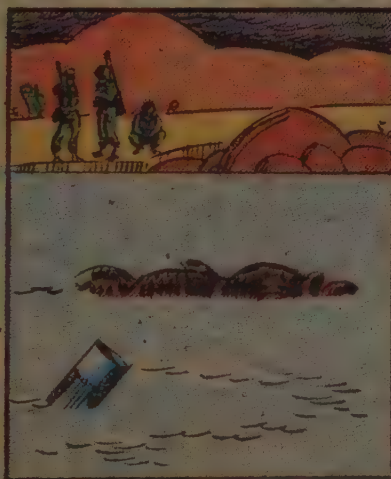
CORPSE ON THE IMJIN!



BUT MANY THINGS FLOAT ON THE IMJIN! DRIFTWOOD, AMMUNITION BOXES, BATTERY CASES, SHELL TUBES!

...WE IGNORE THE FLOATING RUBBLE! WHY THEN, DO WE FASTEN OUR EYES ON A LIFELESS CORPSE?

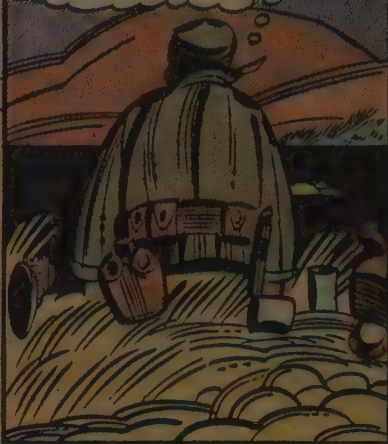
...THOUGH WE SOMETIMES FORGET IT, LIFE IS PRECIOUS, AND DEATH IS UGLY AND NEVER PASSES UNNOTICED!



THERE GOES ANOTHER ONE!
THAT'S THE THIRD IN THE LAST
HALF HOUR... FLOATING THERE
LIKE A DEAD FISH!



GEE! WE MUST HAVE KILLED
THOUSANDS OF THEM IN THIS
OFFENSIVE! WONDER HOW
THAT ONE GOT IT?



PROBABLY GOT HIT BY THE
BOMBERS WHEN HE WAS
TRYING TO CROSS FARTHER
UPSTREAM THERE!



MAYBE IT WAS THE F-51'S! I
SURE WOULDN'T LIKE TO BE
CAUGHT SITTING BY F-51'S...
WITH THEM 5 INCH ROCKETS!



THEN AGAIN, IT COULD HAVE
BEEN THE 155 MM CANNONS!
THEM SELF-PROPELLED 'LONG
TOMS' ARE MURDER!



OR DID A RIFLEMAN CATCH HIM?
COULD'VE BEEN A SHARP
SHOOTER WITH A TELESCOPIC
SIGHT SPRINGFIELD!



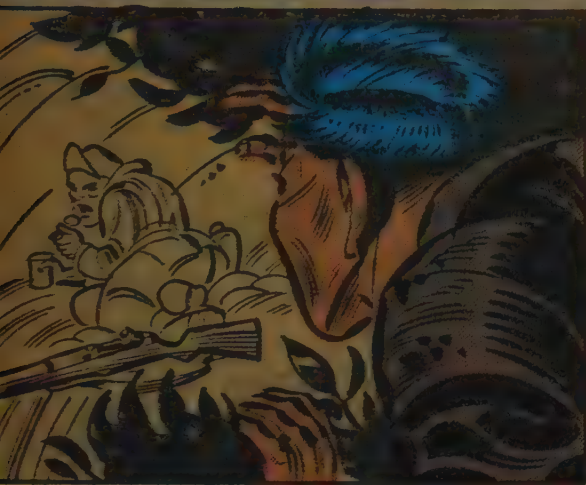
COULD'VE EVEN BEEN HAND TO HAND COMBAT...
ALTHOUGH I DOUBT IT! THE WAY THEY TALK ABOUT
HAND TO HAND COMBAT, YOU'D THINK IT HAPPENS
ALL THE TIME, AND YET I'VE NEVER HEARD OF
ANYONE WHO GOT CLOSE ENOUGH TO THE
ENEMY TO USE A BAYONET!



I GUESS HAND TO HAND COMBAT WAS STRICTLY
FOR THE OLDEN DAYS WHEN EVERYONE FOUGHT
WITH SWORDS AND KNIVES! NOW WITH ALL THE
LONG RANGE WEAPONS, WE CAN KILL PRETTY
GOOD BY REMOTE CONTROL! AND WE NEVER
GET CLOSER'N A MILE TO
THE ENEMY!



CORRECTION, SOLDIER! NOT CLOSER THAN FIFTEEN FEET... FOR THE ENEMY IS WATCHING YOU EAT YOUR RATIONS NOT FIFTEEN FEET FROM YOUR RIFLE!



HE IS WET AND SCARED AND HUNGRY, AND HIS EYES GO FROM YOUR GRATION CAN TO YOUR RIFLE! THE WIND HIDES ALL SOUND AS HE SPRINGS!



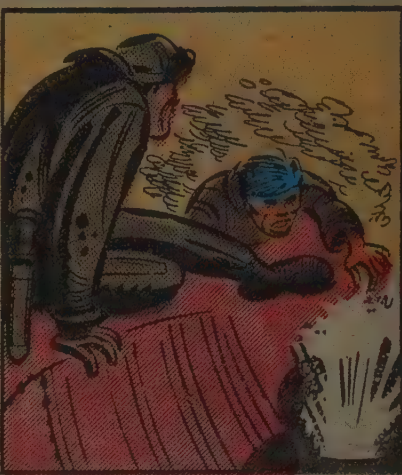
YOU SEE HIM OUT OF THE CORNER OF YOUR EYE AND YOU KICK OUT WITH BOTH YOUR FEET!



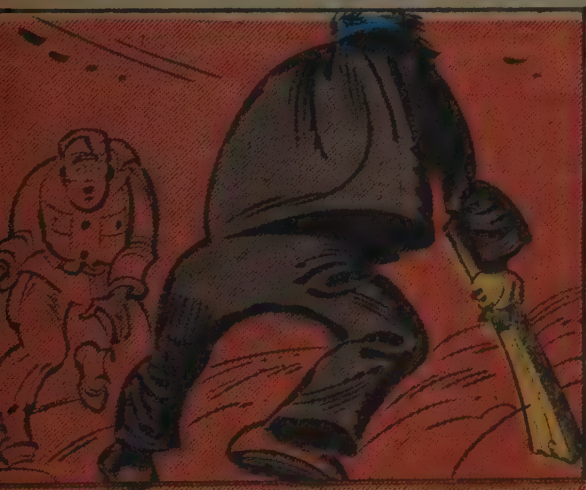
YOU KICK CLUMSILY AT YOUR RIFLE, BECAUSE THAT IS ALL YOU CAN DO TO GET IT OUT OF HIS REACH!



THE RIFLE TUMBLES OVER THE BANK AND INTO THE IMJIN RIVER! AND THEN THERE'S JUST THE SOUND OF THE WIND!



WHERE ARE THE WISECRACKS YOU READ IN THE COMIC BOOKS? WHERE ARE THE FANCY RIGHT HOOKS YOU SEE IN THE MOVIES? HE PICKS UP A BROKEN STICK!



HE'S A LITTLE FELLOW AND HE GRINS AS HE CIRCLES YOU WITH HIS STICK! YOU WIPE AT YOUR NOSE, AND THEN YOU REMEMBER YOUR BAYONET!



YOU GRIP YOUR BAYONET TIGHT... **TIGHT!** DEEP INSIDE, YOU DON'T **REALLY** BELIEVE YOU CAN STICK A KNIFE INTO A HUMAN BEING! IT'S ALMOST SILLY...

THEY SAY THE MAN WHO MOVES FIRST HAS WON HALF THE BATTLE, AND THE LITTLE GUY STRIKES OUT AT YOU WITH THE STICK... **CRACKS YOUR FINGERS**



YOU'VE LOST THE BAYONET AND NOW YOU'RE HURT! HE CLUBS YOU ON THE ARMS, THE SHOULDERS...

BUT THE PAIN MAKES YOU REACT... YOU FEEL A SURGE OF FEAR... HATE... ENERGY... TINGLING IN YOUR MUSCLES...

YOU SHRIEK AND CHARGE LIKE A CRAZY BULL TO ESCAPE THE STINGING CLUB! YOU CLUTCH AT HIM



HE'S REALLY HURT YOU AND YOUR LEGS ARE WOBBLY AND HE STRIKES AND STRIKES!

YOU OUTWEIGH HIM THOUGH, AND WITH ALL THE STRENGTH YOU CAN MUSTER, YOU PUSH HIM TO THE RIVER...

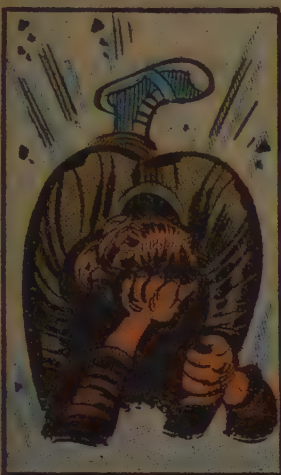
...AND YOU BOTH FALL! YOU RELAX AND YOU FALL! YOU NEVER KNEW FALLING COULD BE SO PLEASANT!



HE KICKS TO STAY UP, BUT
YOU ARE HEAVIER AND
YOU PRESS HIM UNDER!



IT REMINDS YOU OF
SOMETHING...AND YOU
PRESS HIM UNDER!



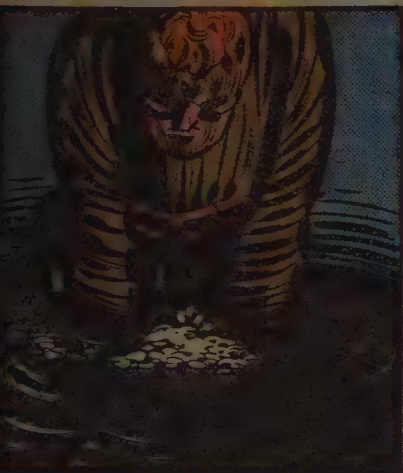
LIKE DUNKING, WHEN
YOU WENT SWIMMING!
YOU PRESS HIM UNDER!



YES... YES... LIKE DUNKING
AT THE SWIMMING HOLE...
YOU DUNK... DUNK... DUNK...



HIS HANDS HAVE STOPPED
CLAWING AT THE AIR... HIS FEET
HAVE STOPPED THRASHING...



...BLOOD AND BUBBLES ARE COM-
ING TO THE SURFACE AND THE
MAN YOU ARE HOLDING RELAXES!



IT SEEMS LIKE HOURS HAVE GONE
BY! THE BUBBLES ARE BARELY
TRICKLING UP AND ALL IS STILL!



SUDDENLY, YOUR MIND IS QUIET,
AND YOUR RAGE COLLAPSES!
THE WATER IS VERY COLD!



YOU'RE TIRED... YOUR BODY IS
GASPING AND SHAKING WEAK...
AND YOU'RE ASHAMED!



YOU STUMBLE AND SLOSH OUT
OF THE RIVER AND RUN... RUN AWAY
FROM THE BODY IN THE WATER!



THE WIND IS RUSHING FITFULLY
OVER THE IMJIN! IT STIRS THE HAIR
ON THE BACK OF THE DEAD MAN'S HEAD!

THE WATER RIPPLES BEFORE THE
WIND... LAPS AT THE SHORE...SWAYS
THE BODY FROM SIDE TO SIDE!

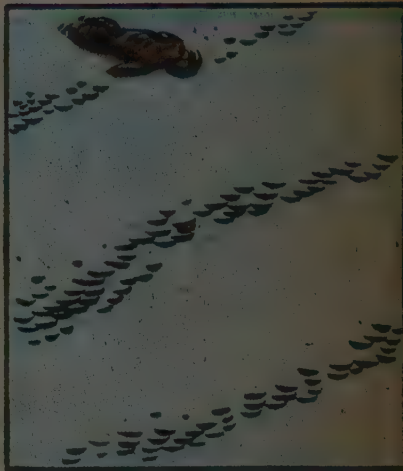
THE FLOWING RIVER GENTLY SWINGS
THE BODY OUT, AWAY FROM THE
BANK AND INTO THE CURRENT!



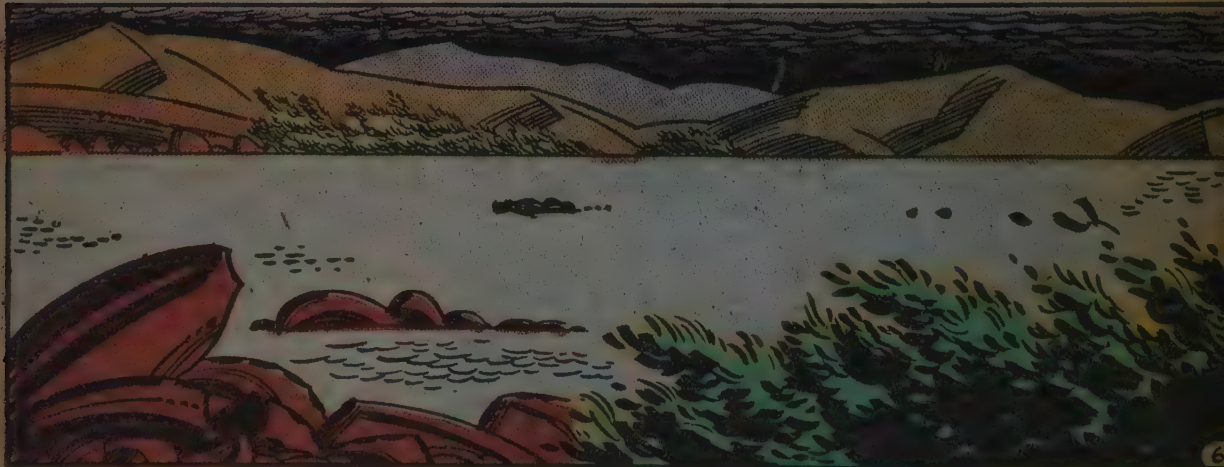
AND NOW THE CURRENT, WEAK
NEAR THE SHORE, SLOWLY TURNS
THE BODY AROUND AND AROUND...

...AND IT IS AS IF NATURE IS TAKING
BACK WHAT IT HAS GIVEN! HAVE
PITY! HAVE PITY FOR A DEAD MAN!

FOR HE IS NOW NOT RICH OR POOR,
RIGHT OR WRONG, BAD OR GOOD!
DON'T HATE HIM! HAVE PITY...



...FOR HE HAS LOST THAT MOST PRECIOUS POSSESSION THAT WE ALL TREASURE ABOVE EVERYTHING...
HE HAS LOST HIS **LIFE!**



LIGHTNING FLASHES IN THE KOREAN HILLS, AND ON THE RAIN-SWOLLEN IMJIN, A CORPSE FLOATS OUT TO SEA.

HERO WORSHIP DEPT.: FASTER THAN A SPEEDING BULLET! KA-PWEENG! MORE POWERFUL THAN A LOCOMOTIVE!
 ...CHUGACHUGACHUGA CHUG! ABLE TO LEAP TALL BUILDINGS IN A SINGLE BOUND!...BOINGGSWOOSH!
 LOOK!... UP IN THE SKY!... IT'S A BIRD!... IT'S A PLANE!... IT'S...

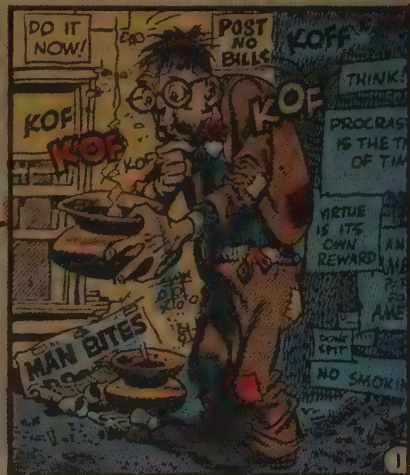
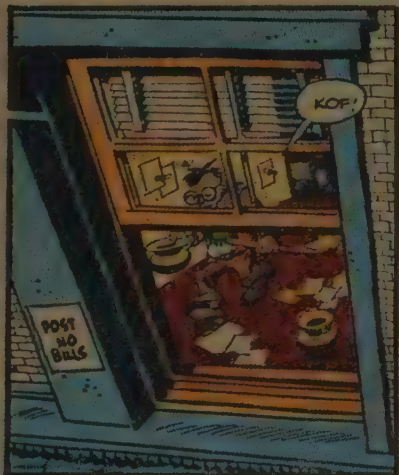
SUPERDUPERMAN!



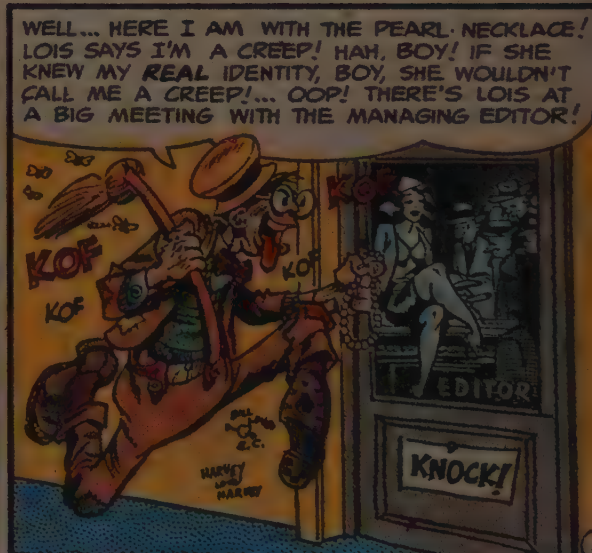
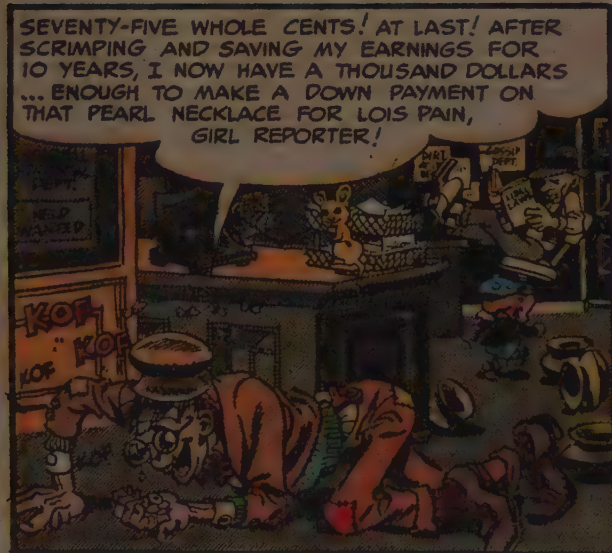
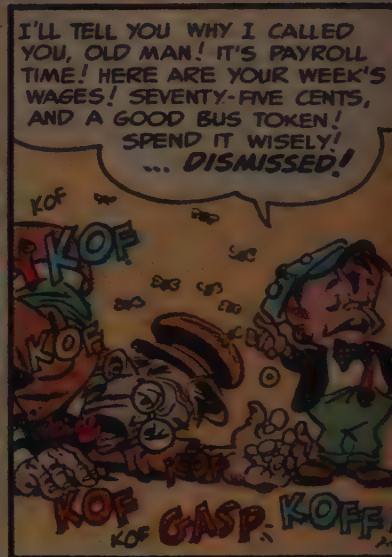
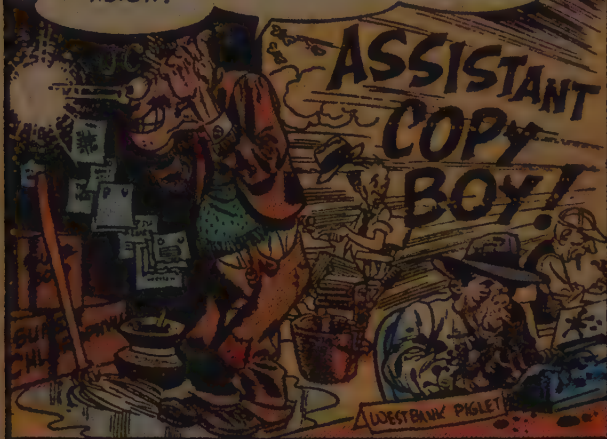
OUR STORY BEGINS HIGH UP IN THE OFFICES OF THAT FIGHTING NEWSPAPER, 'THE DAILY DIRT'!

AN INCREDIBLY MISERABLE AND EMACIATED LOOKING FIGURE SHUFFLES FROM SPITTOON TO SPITTOON!

FOR THIS IS THE ASSISTANT TO THE COPY BOY... CLARK BENT, WHO IS IN REALITY, **SUPERDUPERMAN!**



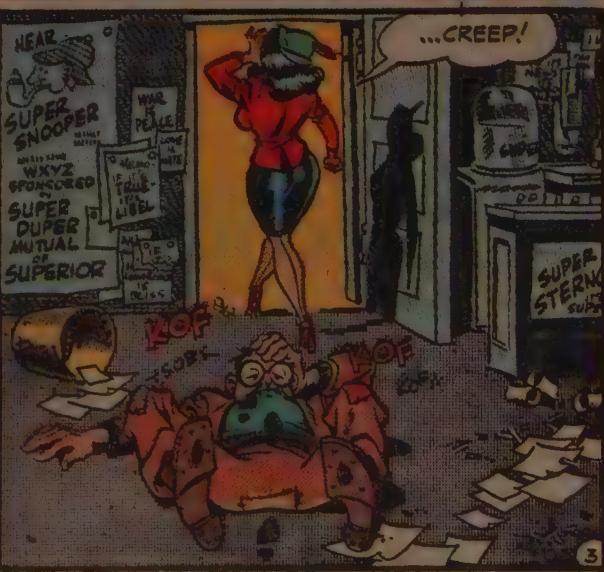
LITTLE DO THOSE LADIES IN THE POWDER ROOM
ACROSS THE HALL KNOW THAT I AM IN REALITY
SUPERDUPERMAN, FASTER THAN A SPEEDING
BULLET... KAPWEENG... WITH LI'L OL' X-RAY
VISION!

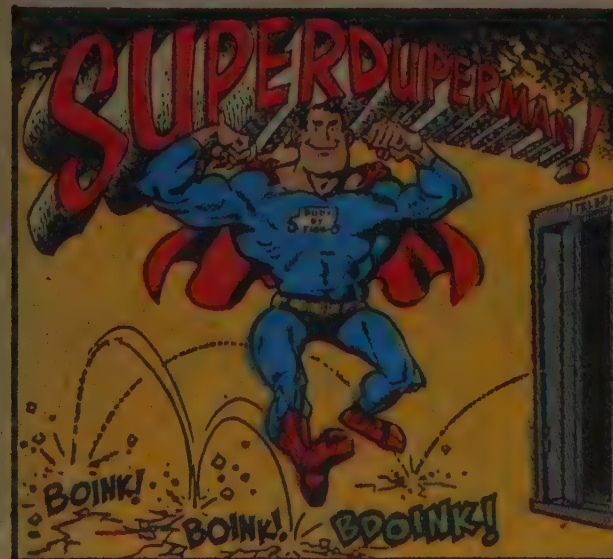


LISTEN, GANG! A BIG STORY IS ABOUT TO BREAK! THE 'UNKNOWN MONSTER' HAS BEEN TERRORIZING COSMOPOLIS FOR MONTHS, AND THE POLICE ARE HELPLESS! THIS MORNING THE D.A. GOT A LETTER FROM THE 'UNKNOWN MONSTER'!



THE 'UNKNOWN MONSTER' HAS ANNOUNCED WHEN AND WHERE HE WILL STRIKE! THIS STORY IS HOT, BOY... HOT... HOT! I WANT YOU TO GO OUT THERE, GANG! I WANT YOU TO FIGHT, I WANT YOU TO DIE, FOR GOOD OL' DAILY DIRT, GANG! NOW GET THAT STORY, GANG!



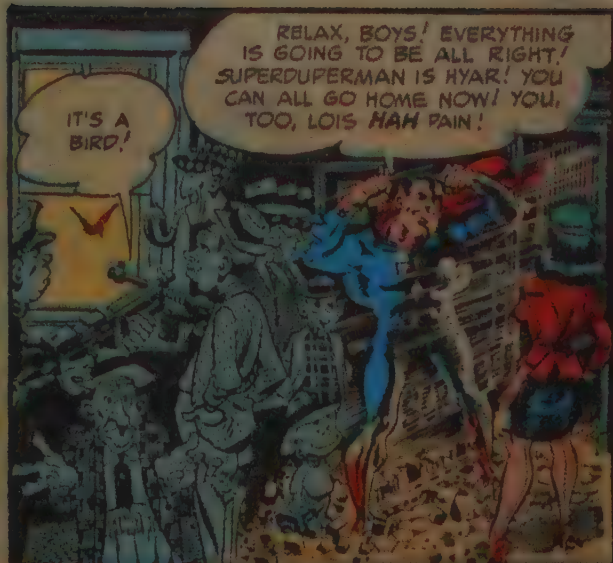


O.K., GANG! THERE'S THE SAFE THE 'UNKNOWN MONSTER' SAID HE'S GOING TO ROB IN JUST FIVE MINUTES! I WANT YOU ALL TO STAY HERE AND GET THIS STORY WHILE I GO BACK AND WATCH THE NEWSPAPER OFFICE!

LOOK! UP THERE IN THE SKY!

IT'S A BIRD!

IT'S A PLANE!

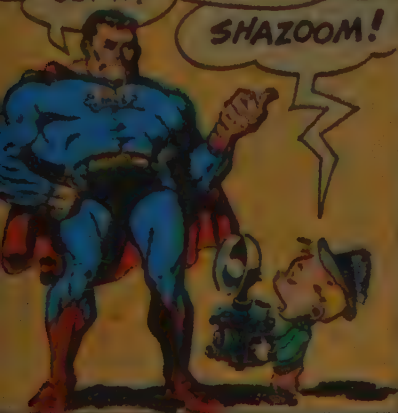


RELAX, BOYS! EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT! SUPERDUPERMAN IS HYAR! YOU CAN ALL GO HOME NOW! YOU, TOO, LOIS HAH PAIN!

IT'S A BIRD!

HEY! YOU! BILLY SPAFON, BOY REPORTER! DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME, BOY? YOU CAN GO HOME! AMSCRAY! AGITATE THE GRAVEL! HIT THE ROAD! STRIKE THE PAVEMENT!... GET IT?

SHAZOOM!



SHAZOOM?
VAS IST DAS
SHAZOOM?

STRENGTH
HEALTH
APTITUDE
ZEAL
OK, POWER OF
OK, POWER OF ANOTHER
MONEY!



ZBIT!

CRACKLE

POF!

WHAT HAPPENED TO BILLY SPAFON, BOY REPORTER?

HE HAS BEEN REPLACED BY ME, CAPTAIN MARBLES! I AM THE 'UNKNOWN MONSTER'!



YOU? CAPTAIN MARBLES? HAVE TURNED RENEGADE? TAKE THAT!

KLANK!



PASTAFAZOOLA! I GAVE HIM A BLOW HARD ENOUGH TO SLAY A THOUSAND ELEPHANTS!

HO-HUM! DID YOU FEEL A BREEZE JUST THEN?... JUST REMEMBER, SUPER-DUPE OLD MAN, I AM AS INVINCIBLE AS THOU!



WELL! LIVE AND LET LIVE, I ALWAYS SAY!... JUST DON'T PAY ANY ATTENTION TO ME, OL' MAN!
♪ LA-TE-TYA! ♪

LISTEN, SUPERDUPE!
COME ON OFF YOUR HIGH HORSE!



LAA-TE-TEE ♪ I THINK I'LL LIFT THIS SAFE UP HERE... GOT TO KEEP IN SHAPE... FLA DEE YOO ♪

TAKE A TIP FROM ME!
I WAS LIKE YOU ONCE,
KNOCKING MYSELF OUT
TO FIGHT CRIME!



♪ LEELOO! JUST STAND RIGHT THERE... HUMM ♪ HUMM ♪ MY BUDDY ♪ ♪ MY BUDDY ♪...
HAH!

ONE DAY
WHILE I WAS
PUNCHING MY WAY
THROUGH A MOUNTAIN...



...PUNCHING MY WAY THROUGH THIS MOUNTAIN TO CAPTURE A GANG OF INTERNATIONAL JEWEL THIEVES! SUDDENLY IT HIT ME! WHY AM I PUNCHING MY WAY THROUGH THIS MOUNTAIN?

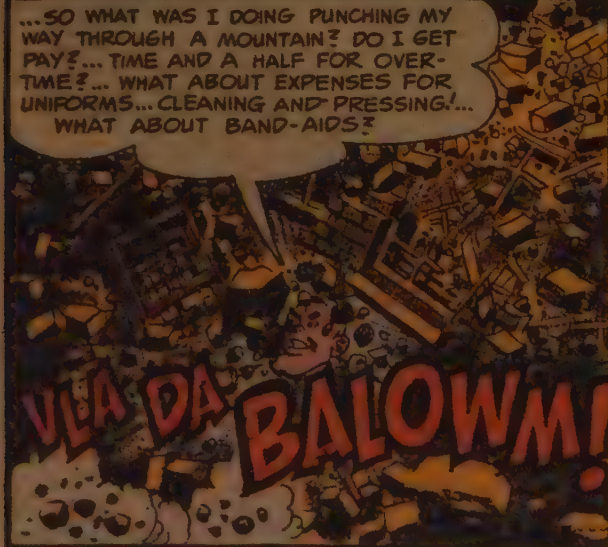


I GOT TALENT!
NOT EVERYONE
CAN PUNCH
THEIR WAY
THROUGH A
MOUNTAIN!
ESPECIALLY
WITH THEIR
HEAD!

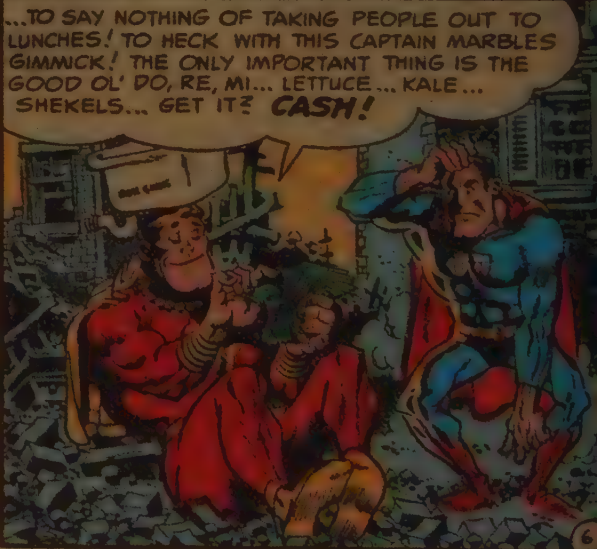


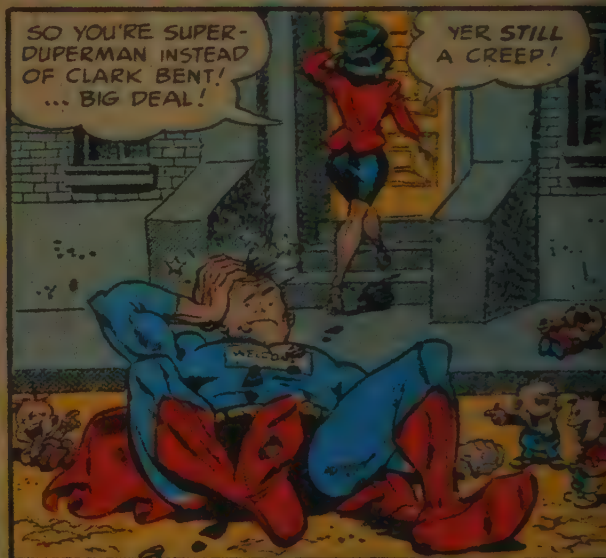
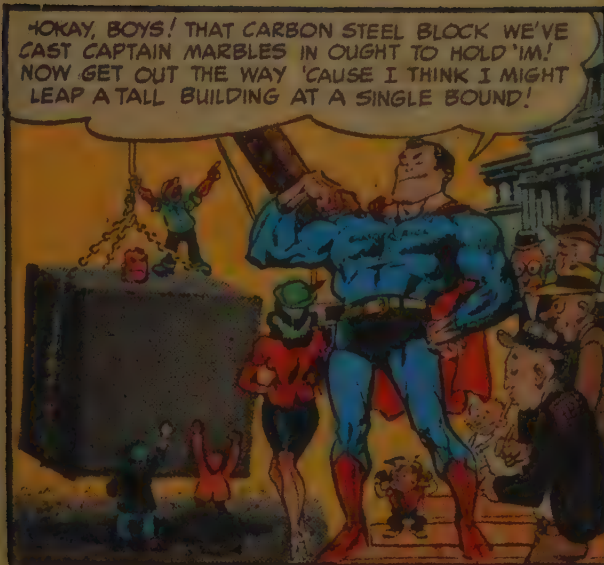
♪ JUST KEEP
STANDING
RIGHT THERE...
NO BUDDY
QUITE SO ♪
TRO-O-O-O...
♪ ♪

...SO WHAT WAS I DOING PUNCHING MY WAY THROUGH A MOUNTAIN? DO I GET PAY?... TIME AND A HALF FOR OVER-TIME?... WHAT ABOUT EXPENSES FOR UNIFORMS... CLEANING AND PRESSING... WHAT ABOUT BAND-AIDS?



...TO SAY NOTHING OF TAKING PEOPLE OUT TO LUNCHES! TO HECK WITH THIS CAPTAIN MARBLES GIMMICK! THE ONLY IMPORTANT THING IS THE GOOD OL' DO, RE, MI... LETTUCE... KALE... SHEKELS... GET IT? **CASH!**

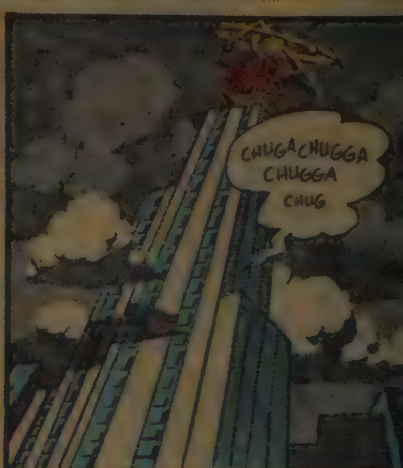




UP IN THE FIGHTING NEWSPAPER OFFICE OF THE 'DAILY DIRT... GOING FROM SPITON TO SPITON...

...SHUFFLES AN INCREDIBLY WRETCHED AND MISERABLE LOOKING CREEP... CLARK BENT, ASSISTANT COPY BOY...

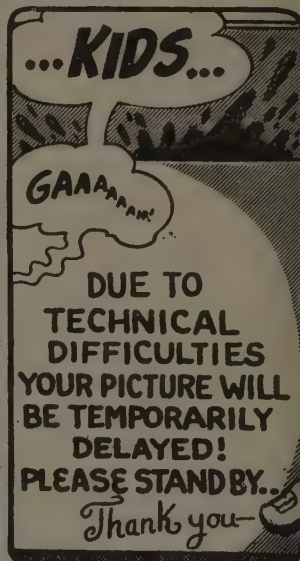
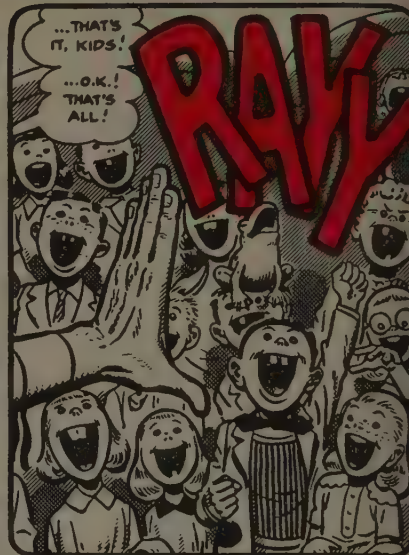
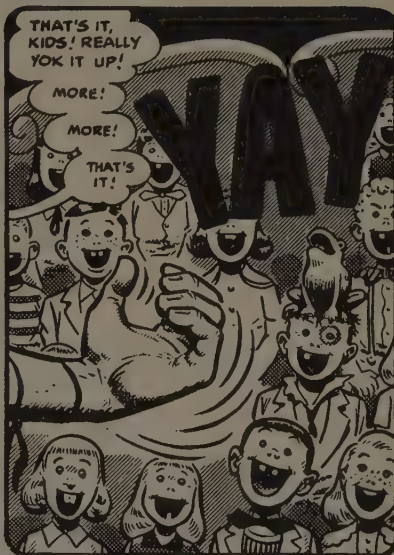
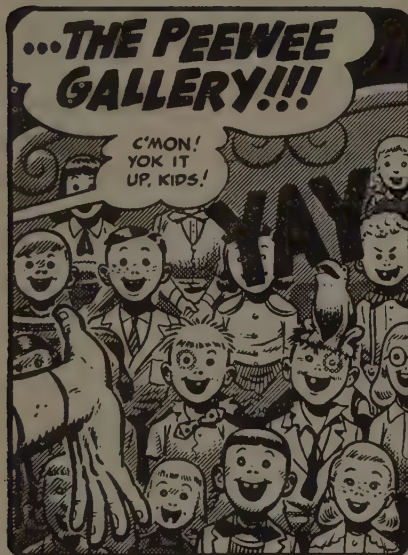
WHO IS IN REALITY, SUPERDUPERMAN SO WHAT DOES IT ALL PROVE? IT PROVES ONCE A CREEP, ALWAYS A CREEP

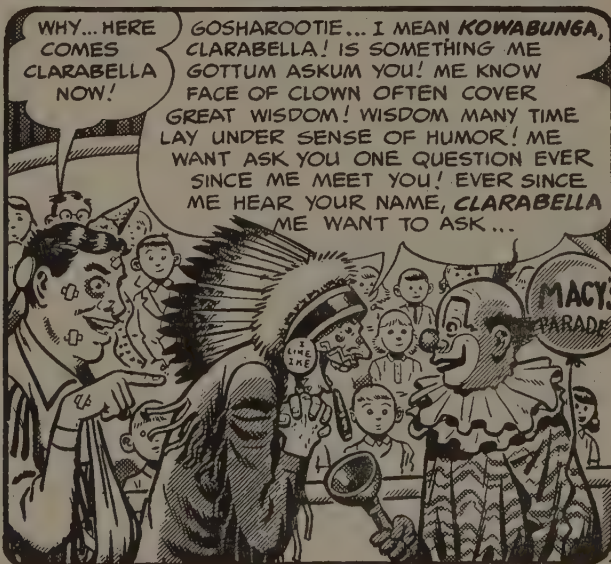
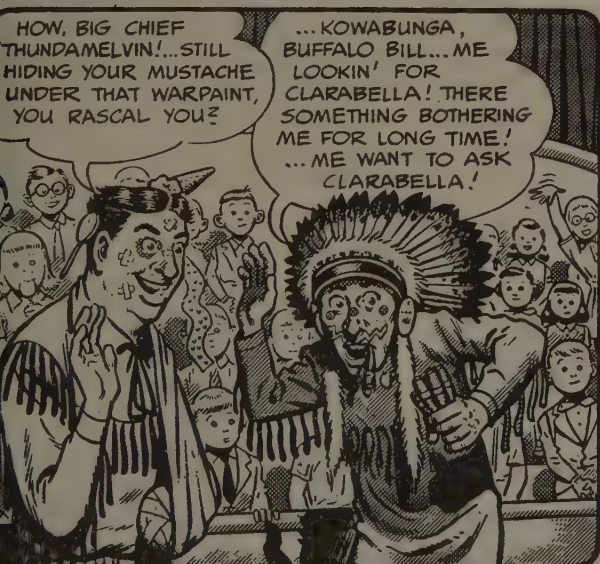
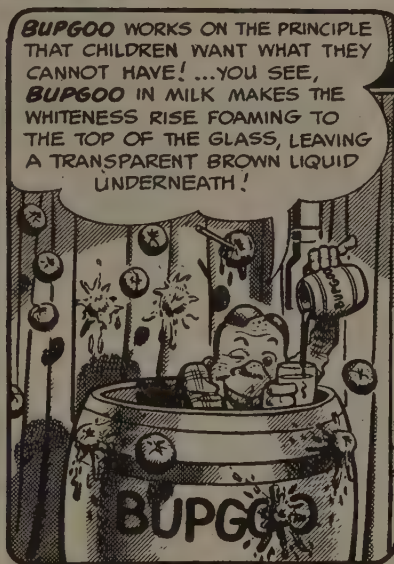
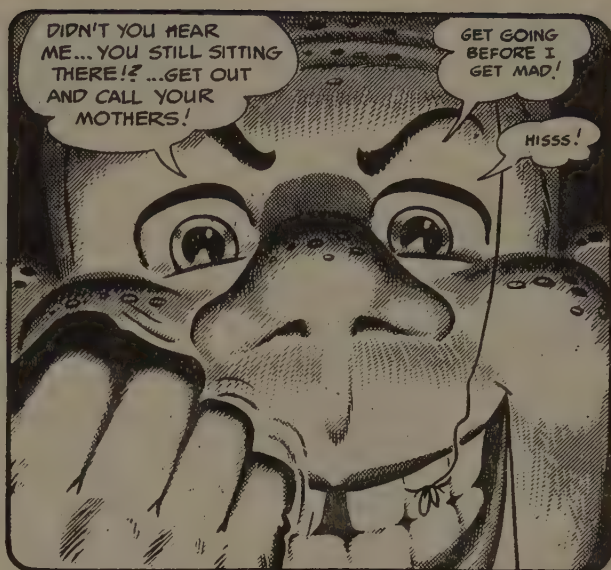
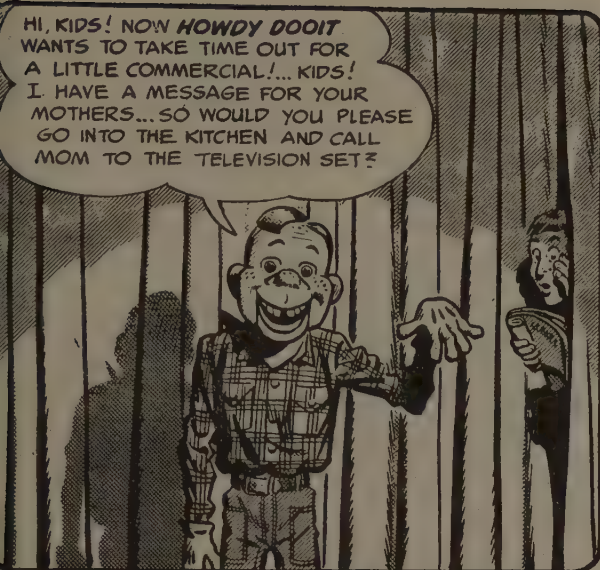


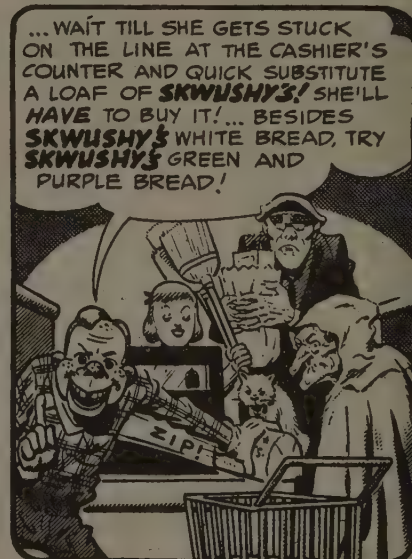
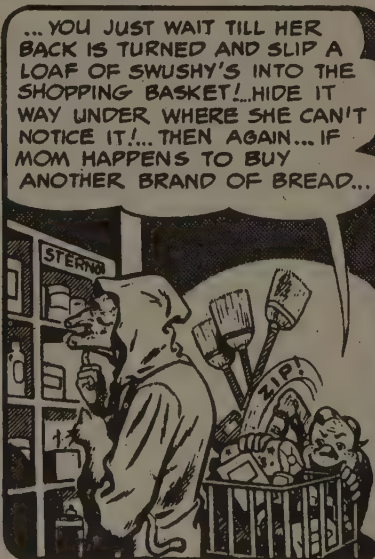
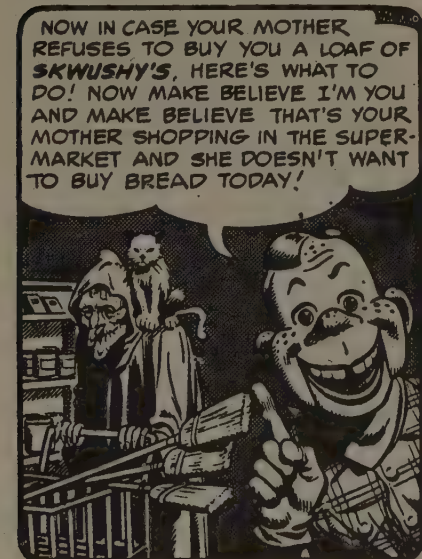
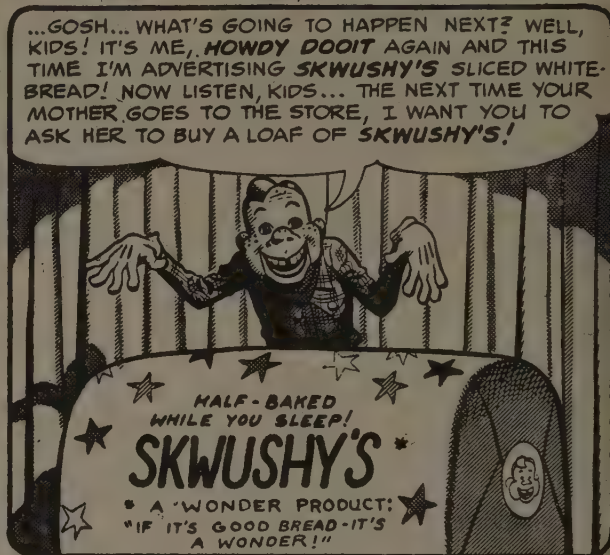
T.V. DEPT.: OUR CONSTANT READERS HAVE NO DOUBT NOTICED OUR SUDDEN SHIFT TO TELEVISION! WE ARE GIVING SPECIAL ATTENTION TO T.V. BECAUSE WE BELIEVE IT HAS BECOME AN INTEGRAL PART OF LIVING...A POWERFUL INFLUENCE IN SHAPING THE FUTURE...BUT MAINLY WE ARE GIVING ATTENTION BECAUSE WE JUST GOT A NEW T.V. SET!...SO HERE'S OUR STORY...

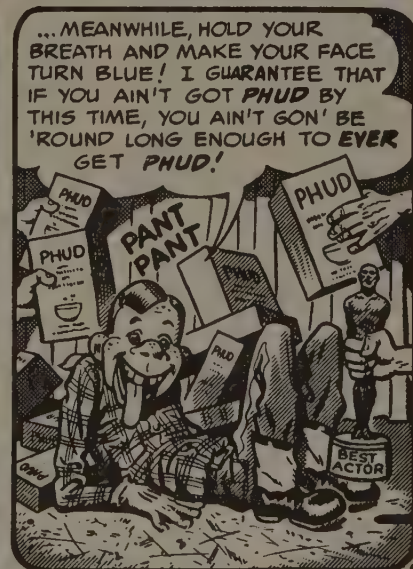
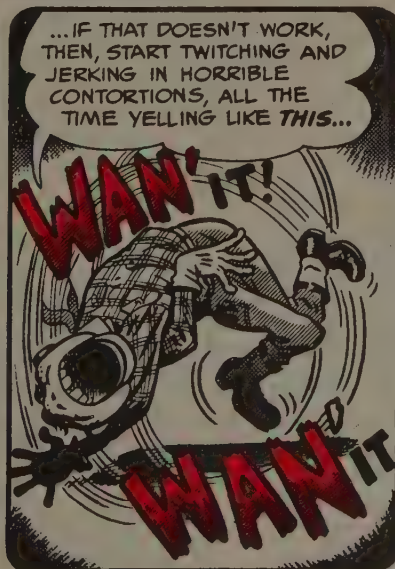
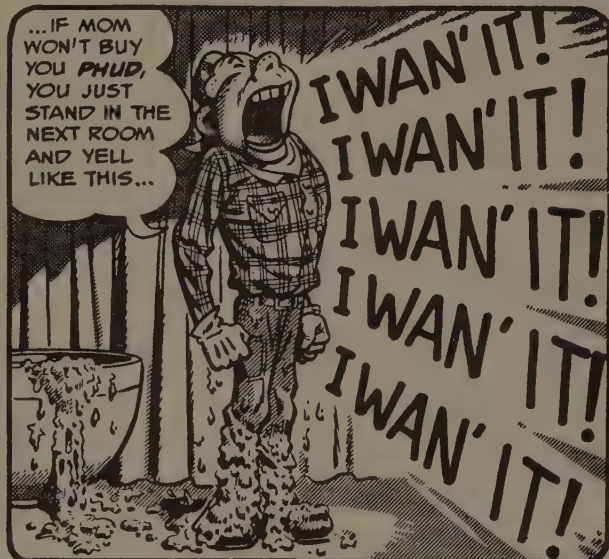
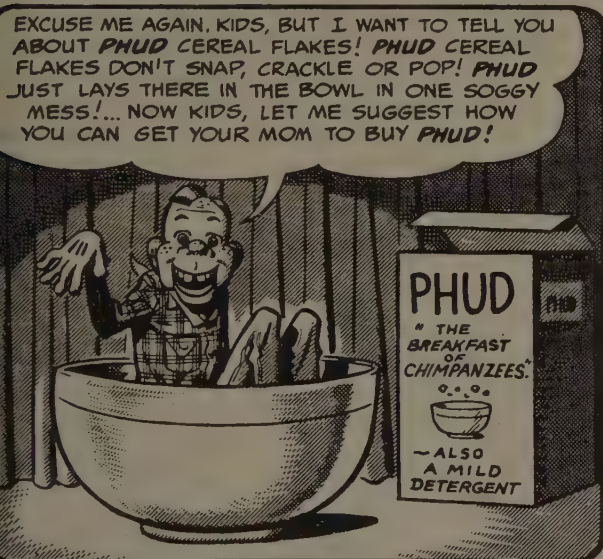
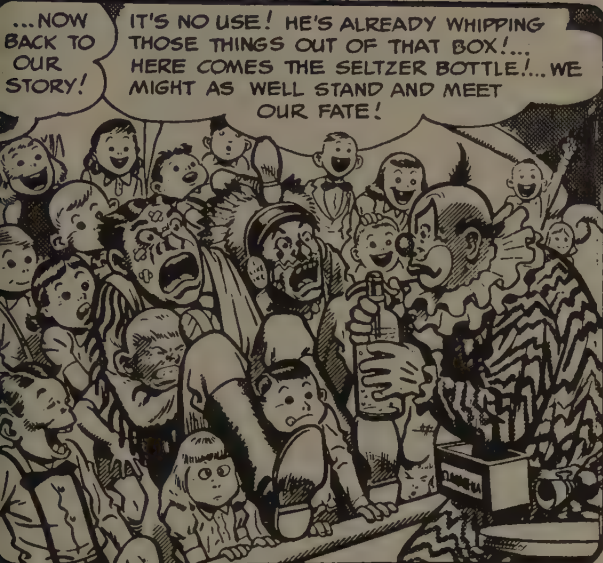
HOWDY DOOIT!

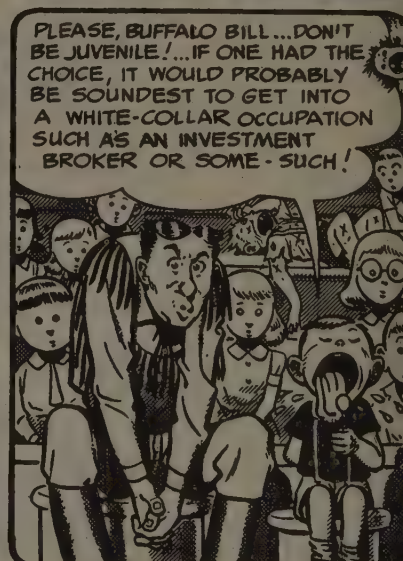
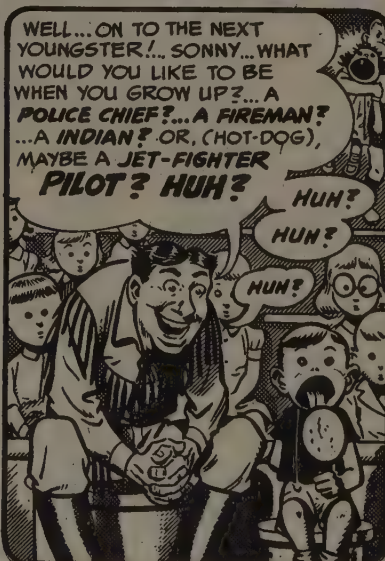
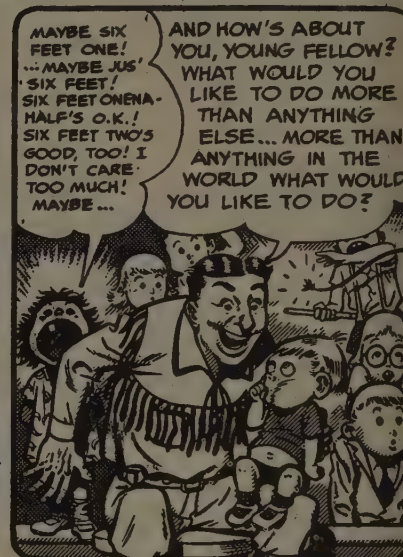
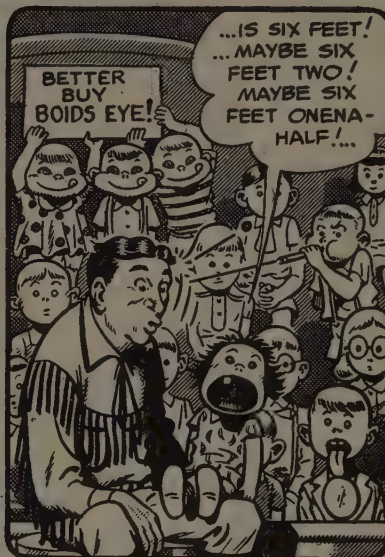
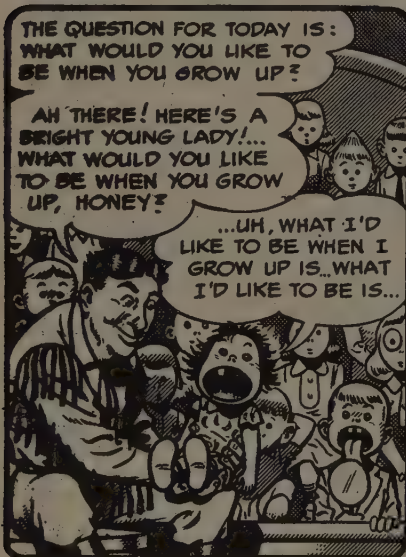
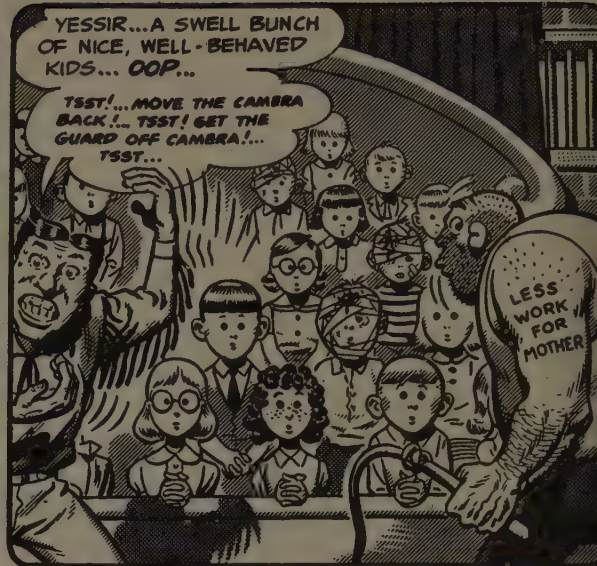


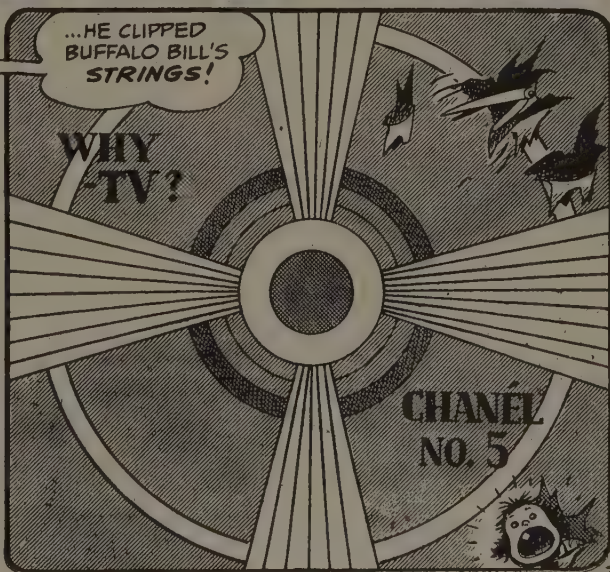
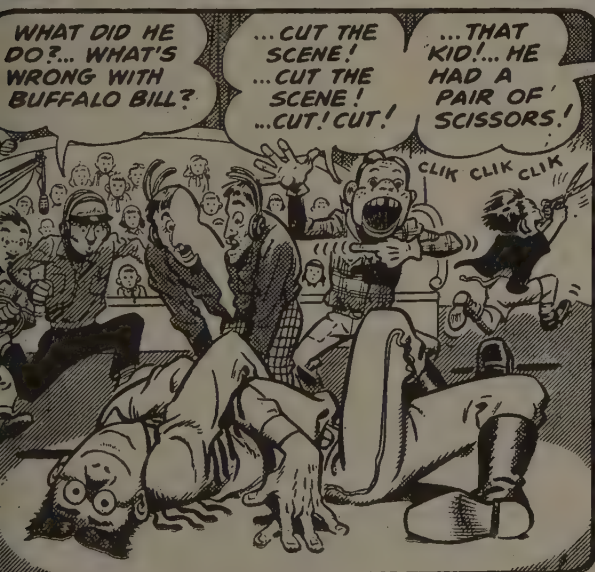
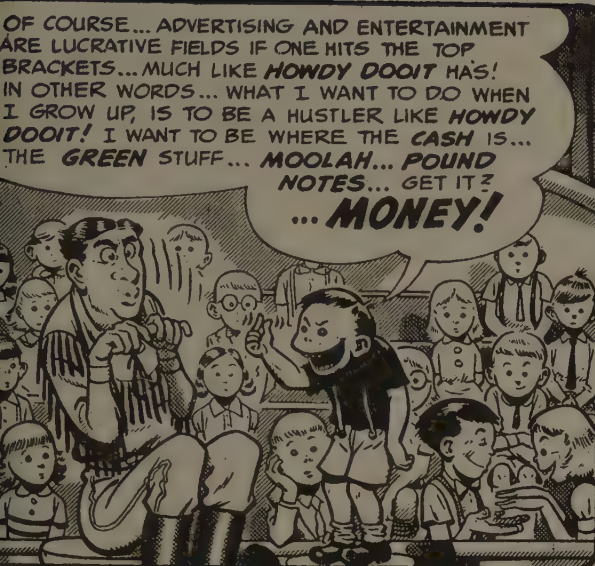










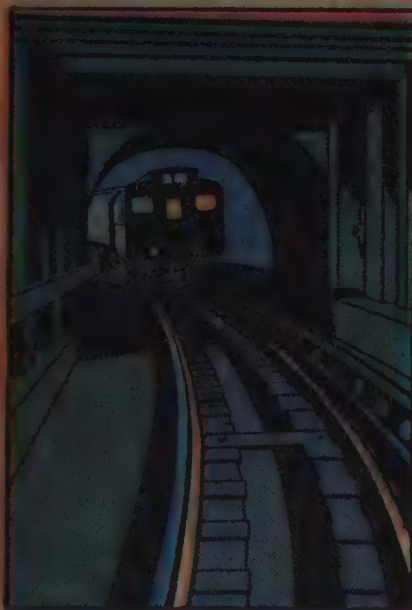


MASTER ^卐 RACE

YOU CAN **NEVER FORGET**, CAN YOU, CARL REISSMAN? EVEN **HERE**...IN **AMERICA**...TEN YEARS AND THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY FROM YOUR NATIVE GERMANY...YOU CAN NEVER FORGET THOSE **BLOODY WAR YEARS**. THOSE MEMORIES WILL HAUNT YOU FOREVER...AS EVEN NOW THEY HAUNT YOU WHILE YOU DESCEND THE SUBWAY STAIRS INTO THE QUIET SEMI-DARKNESS...



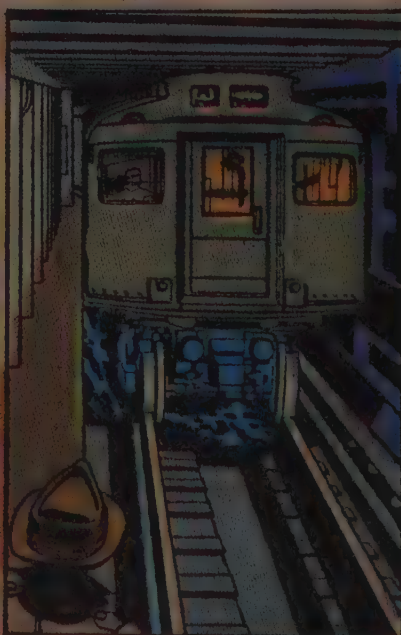
THE TRAIN ROARS OUT OF THE BLACK CAVERN, SHATTERING THE SILENCE OF THE ALMOST DESERTED STATION...



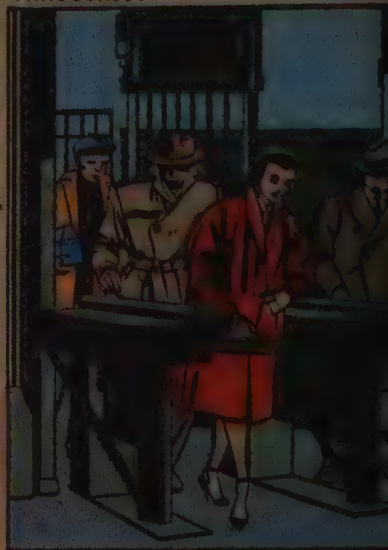
YOUR ACCENT IS STILL THICK ALTHOUGH YOU HAVE MASTERED THE LANGUAGE OF YOUR NEW COUNTRY THAT TOOK YOU IN WITH OPEN ARMS WHEN YOU FINALLY ESCAPED FROM BELSEN CONCENTRATION CAMP. YOU SLIDE THE BILL UNDER THE BARRED CHANGE-BOOTH WINDOW...



YOU STARE AT THE ONRUSHING STEEL MONSTER...



YOU MOVE TO THE BUSY CLICKING TURNSTILES...SLIP THE SHINY TOKEN INTO THE THIN SLOT...AND PUSH THROUGH...



YOU BLINK AS THE FIRST CAR RUSHES BY AND ILLUMINATED WINDOWS FLASH IN AN EVER-BLOWING RHYTHM...



AND THE TRAIN GRINDS TO
MISSING STOP...



YOU MOVE TO THE DOOR AS IT SLIDES OPEN.
A PASSENGER EMERGES AND YOU FEEL HIS
EYES UPON YOU AND YOU SHUDDER. WHY ARE
YOU FRIGHTENED, CARL? THAT WAS A **LONG**
TIME AGO! THIS IS **AMERICA**. YOU'RE
SAFE NOW! YOU'RE FREE...



BUT YOU **ARE** AFRAID, **AREN'T** YOU,
CARL? YOU'LL **ALWAYS** BE AFRAID.
YOU'LL **KEEP REMEMBERING...**
REMEMBERING THE **HORROR...** THE
HATE... THE **SUFFERING...** AND
YOU'LL **STAY** AFRAID. YOU STEP INTO
THE ALMOST-EMPTY CAR AND YOU
SIGH INTO A SEAT...



THE DOORS SLAM SHUT. THE TRAIN
BURLCHES AND ROLLS AHEAD, THUN-
DERING OUT OF THE STATION AND
DASHING INTO THE BLACK CHASMS TUN-
NELING BENEATH THE CITY. YOU
UNFOLD YOUR PAPER...



YOU TRY TO READ,
BUT THE WORDS ARE
MEANINGLESS. NOTHING
HAS MEANING ANY
MORE... NOTHING BUT
THE SICKENING SEN-
SATION THAT HAS
PLAGUED YOU FOR
OVER TEN LONG YEARS.
THE CONCENTRATION
CAMP HAS LEFT ITS
MARK UPON YOU, HASN'T
IT, CARL REISSMAN?

YOU LOOK AROUND AT YOUR FELLOW PASSENGERS SIT-
TING ALONE IN THEIR OWN LITTLE WORLDS OF FEAR.
YOU STUDY THEIR FACES... THEIR FEATURES... THEIR
EYES... LOOKING... ALWAYS LOOKING. WHAT ARE YOU
LOOKING FOR CARL? WHO **IS** IT YOU'RE **AFRAID** OF?



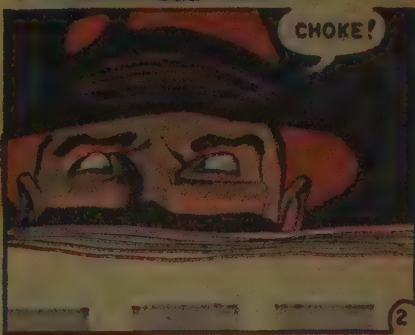
THE TRAIN GROANS INTO ANOTHER
STATION AND JERKS TO A STOP. THE
DOORS HUM WIDE. YOU LOOK DOWN
AT YOUR PAPER, ONLY **SENSING**
PEOPLE GETTING OFF...



...SOMEONE GETTING ON...



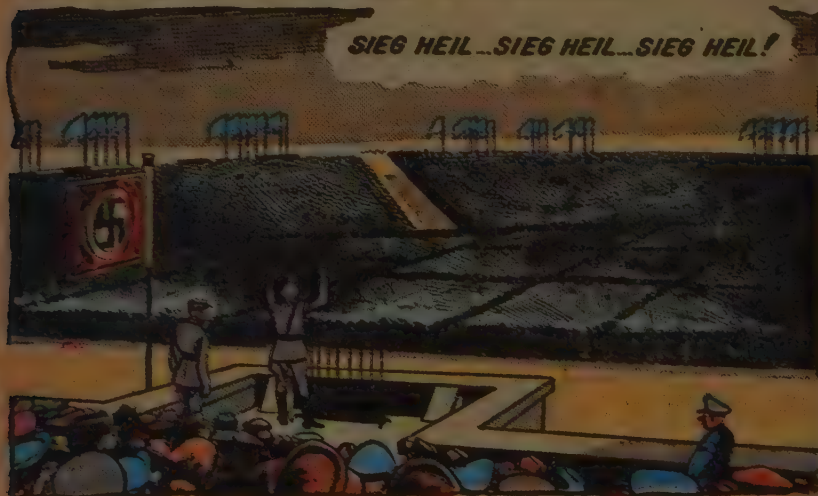
AND THEN...DOWN DEEP INSIDE YOU...
YOU FEEL THE CHILL... THE COLD CHILL
...THE CHILL OF DEATH. YOU STARE
AT THE PAPER ON YOUR LAP, UNABLE
TO RAISE YOUR EYES... AFRAID TO SEE
WHAT YOU KNOW IS THERE. BUT,
AFTER A FEW TERRORIZED MOMENTS,
YOU CAN'T STAND IT! YOU **DO** LOOK
UP! AND YOU **SEE** HIM...



HE SITS STIFFLY, READING HIS PAPER, NOT LOOKING AT YOU, NOT NOTICING YOU. BUT **YOU'VE SEEN HIM, CARL!** YOU'VE SEEN HIS **FACE...** THE ONE YOU **KNEW** SOMEDAY YOU'D SEE AGAIN...THE FACE YOU'VE BEEN **AFRAID** TO SEE FOR **TEN LONG YEARS**. YOUR MOUTH TWITCHES. YOUR HANDS OPEN AND CLOSE, WET WITH PERSPIRATION...



...TO ANOTHER SHRILL, SCREAM...THE SCREAM OF A LITTLE MAN WITH WILD EYES AND BLACK HAIR AND A SMALL BLACK MOUSTACHE...



AND WHEN THE LITTLE MAN HAD STOPPED SCREAMING AND THE CROWD HAD DISPERSED, REMEMBER THE SICKENING FEELING YOU HAD... THE REVULSION AND NAUSEA YOU FELT AS YOU TRUDGED HOME?...



THERE WERE **OTHERS** LIKE YOU, CARL...



...OTHERS WHO WERE **SICK** AND **REVOLTED** AND **NAUSEATED** AT THE SCREAMING PROPOSALS OF THIS LITTLE MAN. BUT **THEY** COULDN'T STOP THE TIDE, **COULD THEY, CARL?** **THEY** COULDN'T STEM THE FLOW OF HATE THAT / POURED THROUGH THE STREETS WITH CLUBS AND GUNS AND THE ECHOES OF THE LITTLE MAN'S SCREAMS URGING IT ON...



THE TRAIN SCREAMS AROUND A CURVE IN ITS SUBTERRANIAN ROUTE ...AND THE SCREAM IS SHRILL AND SHARP...SETTING YOUR TEETH ON EDGE...REACHING BACK INTO THE PAST...



REMEMBER, CARL? REMEMBER THE LITTLE MAN IN THE UNIFORM WHO STOOD FIRST BEFORE SMALL GROUPS... THEN BEFORE CROWDS...AND FINALLY BEFORE MULTITUDES...AND SCREAMED AND SCREAMED THEM INTO AN HYSTERICAL MISSION OF WORLD CONQUEST. **YOU** WERE THERE...IN ONE OF THOSE CROWDS. REMEMBER?



NO ONE COULD STOP THE BOOKS
FROM BEING BURNED...



...OR THE SHOP WINDOWS FROM
BEING SMASHED AND THEIR CON-
TENTS RANSACKED...



...OR THE SANCTITY OF HOMES FROM
BEING VIOLATED...



IT WAS A MADNESS... A WAVE THAT SWEEPED THROUGH
YOUR HOMELAND LIKE A PLAGUE... A TIDAL WAVE OF
FRENZIED HATE-FEARS AND BLOOD-LETTING AND
EXPLODING VIOLENCE... A WILD UNCONTROLLED WAVE
THAT SWEEPED YOU AND YOUR KIND ALONG WITH IT...



WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, CARL? WHEN WERE YOU CAUGHT UP
IN THIS TIDE? WHEN DID YOU FIRST SEE BELSEN CONCENTRA-
TION CAMP AND THE HUMAN MISERY THAT SOBBED WITHIN
ITS BARBED-WIRE WALLS?...



DO YOU REMEMBER, CARL? DO YOU REMEMBER
THE AWFUL SMELL OF THE GAS CHAMBERS THAT
HOURLY ANNIHILATED HUNDREDS AND HUNDREDS
OF YOUR COUNTRYMEN?...



DO YOU REMEMBER THE STINKING ODOR OF HUMAN FLESH BURN-
ING IN THE OVENS... MEN'S... WOMEN'S... CHILDREN'S... PEOPLE YOU
ONCE KNEW AND TALKED TO AND DRANK BEER WITH?...



DO YOU REMEMBER THE UNMERCIFUL TORTURES...THE SCREAMS IN THE NIGHT...THE PITIFUL WAILING OF THE DOOMED? DO YOU REMEMBER THE MAD EXPERIMENTS WITH HUMAN GUINEA PIGS...THE WANTON WASTE OF HUMAN LIFE?...



...THE BULBS THAT BURNED IN LAMPS ON DESKS IN THE CONCENTRATION CAMP OFFICES...GLOWING THROUGH THEIR HUMAN-SKIN-SHADES?...



LOOK, CARL! LOOK AT THE FACE OF THIS MAN SITTING ACROSS FROM YOU IN THIS NOW DESERTED SUBWAY CAR. LOOK...AND REMEMBER! REMEMBER THE GUARDS THAT GLEEFULLY CARRIED OUT THE SADISTIC ORDERS OF THE MASTER RACE...WHIPPING...KICKING... BEATING!... THE GUARDS THAT EAGERLY DRAGGED THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN TO THE WAITING, SMOKING OVENS!...



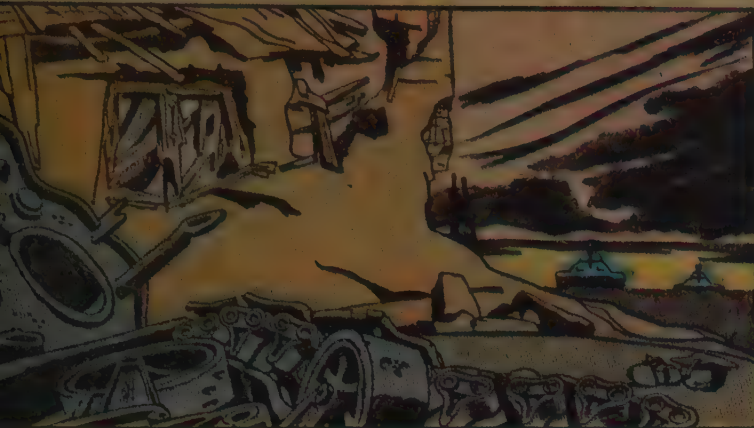
REMEMBER THE GUARDS THAT PUSHED AND SHOVED...HEAPING THE HELPLESS CAMP INMATES INTO THE FRESH DUG MASS GRAVES...



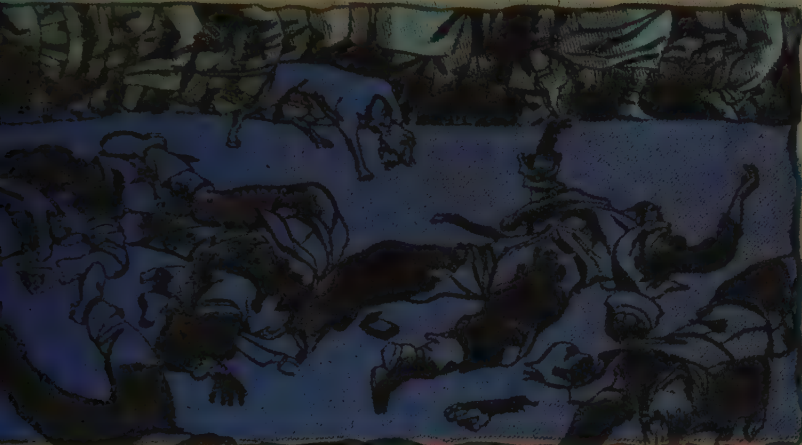
...LAUGHING WILDLY AS THEY BURIED THEIR VICTIMS ALIVE...SHOVELING THE DIRT DOWN UPON THEM, MUFLING THEIR PATHETIC SCREAMS...MUFLING THEIR PATHETIC LIVES!...



LOOK AT THIS MAN AND REMEMBER, CARL! REMEMBER HIS FACE...
 THE LOOK THAT CAME INTO HIS EYES WHEN THE NEWS CAME THAT THE
 RUSSIANS WERE ONLY A FEW KILOMETERS AWAY! IT WAS OVER FOR YOU,
 MEN, CARL! THE KILLING AND MAIMING AND TORTURING WAS SUDDENLY
 OVER FOR YOU!



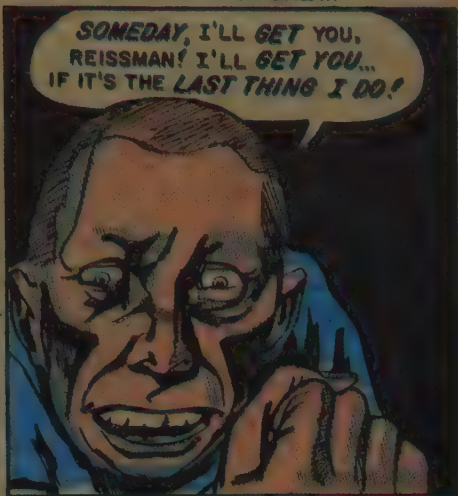
AND THEN YOU WERE **FREE**... RUNNING PELL-MELL ACROSS EUROPE,
 LOSTING YOUR CLOTHES, LOSING YOURSELF IN AMONG THE STREAMS OF
 REFUGEES THAT CHOKED THE ROADS AND HIGHWAYS BEFORE THE ADVANC-
 ING ALLIED ARMIES...



AND NOW HE'S **LOOKING** AT YOU.
 HE'S LOOKING AT YOUR **HAIR**... AT
 YOUR **LIPS**... YOUR **NOSE**... DEEP
 INTO YOUR **FRIGHTENED EYES**. AND
 A SPARK OF **FAR-AWAY, LONG-AGO**
RECOGNITION IGNITES HIS FACE...



AND YET IT **WASN'T** OVER, BECAUSE HE
 LOOKED AT YOU AND **SWORE**...



AND YET YOU **WEREN'T** FREE,
 CARL! EVEN THOUGH YOU SOMEHOW
GOT TO AMERICA, YOU **NEVER FOR-**
GOT! YOU NEVER FORGOT HIS **PROM-**
ISE! SO YOU CARRIED THE FEAR
WITH YOU FOR **TEN YEARS** AND
NOW IT'S **CAUGHT UP** WITH YOU!
 HE'S **THERE**... SITTING **OPPOSITE**
 YOU... FEELING YOUR **FRIGHTENED**
STARING EYES UPON HIM...



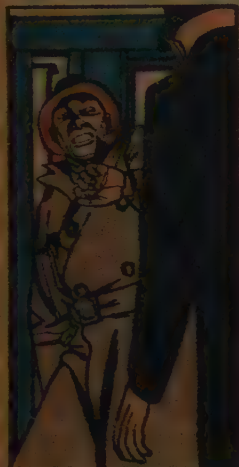
HE RISES SLOWLY, HIS MOUTH SET IN A GRIM TAUT
 LINE. HIS EYES CLOUD WITH HATE, HIS FISTS CLENCH...



NO! NO! GOTT
 IN HIMMEL!



THE TRAIN GRINDS TO A STOP. THE DOORS SLIDE OPEN. HE'S COMING TOWARD YOU, CARL! RUN! THIS IS YOUR CHANCE! RUN!...



RUN... AS YOU RAN FROM BELSEN, CARL! RUN... AS YOU RAN ACROSS EUROPE, FLEEING THE LIBERATING ALLIED ARMIES! RUN, NOW, CARL... AS YOU REFUSED TO RUN WHEN THAT MAD WAVE SWEEPED OVER GERMANY... SWEEPING YOU ALONG IN ITS BLOOD WAKE!...

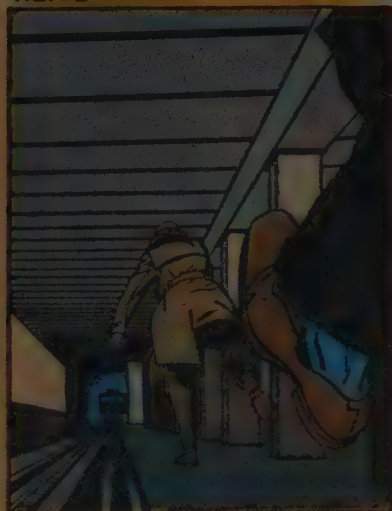


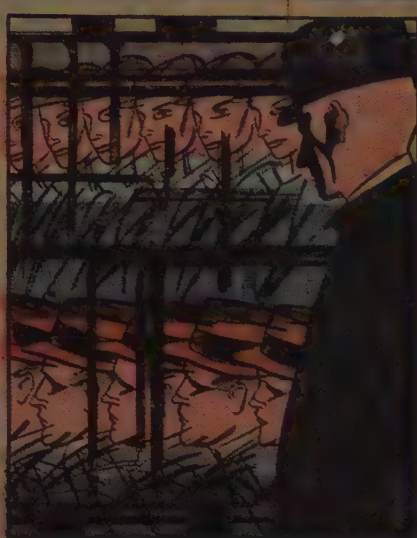
RUN DOWN THE LONG, EMPTY, DESERTED STATION PLATFORM, CARL! RUN FROM THIS PERSONIFICATION OF THE MILLIONS OF YOUR COUNTRYMEN WHO COULDN'T RIDE THE TIDE YOU CHOSE TO RIDE... WHO WERE CAUGHT IN ITS UNDERTOW...



...WHO WERE PERSECUTED AND JAILED AND BURNED IN OVENS AND GASED AND BURIED ALIVE IN MASS GRAVES...

RUN FROM THIS SURVIVOR OF A HUMAN HELL ON EARTH... THIS SURVIVOR OF A GERMAN CONCENTRATION CAMP... BELSEN CONCENTRATION CAMP...





WHAT
APPENED?

I DON'T KNOW!
HE GOT OUT AHEAD
OF ME AND BEGAN
TO RUN!



HE RAN UP THE
PLATFORM AND
THEN JUMPED
UNDER THE WHEELS
OF THE TRAIN
COMING IN THE
OTHER WAY...



EVER SEE HIM
BEFORE?



NO! HE...

HE WAS A
PERFECT
STRANGER...



THE
END

A Selective, Annotated Bibliography

Most of the best research and writing about comic books has been published in comics "fanzines"—obscure magazines, with tiny circulations, that are devoted to discussions of comic books and related fields. We have cited a selection of those writings in this bibliography, along with some of the books and articles that have received more general distribution. Some "fanzines" can be found in large libraries, and in some cases back issues are available from the publishers or from University Microfilms. The addresses of the publishers are given when appropriate. And here are the addresses for the comics "fanzines" we will be listing several times below:

Fanfare (formerly *Graphic Story Magazine*)—Bill Spicer, 329 N. Avenue 66, Los Angeles, California 90042.

Funnyworld—University Microfilms International, 300 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106.

Panels, Squa Tront—John Benson, 205 W. 80th Street, Apartment 2E, New York, New York 10024.

Please note: Inquiries about the price and availability of a publication should always be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

General

Bails, Jerry, and Hames Ware, eds. *The Who's Who of American Comic Books*, 4 vols., 1973–1976. (Jerry Bails, 21101 E. 11 Mile, Saint Clair Shores, Michigan 48081.) Biographical entries for more than 2,500 artists, writers, and editors.

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Horn, Maurice, ed. *The World Encyclopedia of Comics*. New York: Chelsea House, 1976. This book remains the only comprehensive reference to the field (but reviewers have cited errors and omissions).

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Thompson, Don, and Dick Lupoff, eds. *The Comic-Book Book*. New Rochelle, N. Y.: Arlington House, 1974. A successor volume to *All in Color for a Dime*, and likewise composed of essays on comic books.

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Thompson, Don. "The Rehabilitation of Eel O'Brian." In Thompson and Lupoff, eds., *The Comic-Book Book*.

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Ellison, Harlan. "Comic of the Absurd." In Lupoff and Thompson, eds., *All in Color for a Dime*.

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Barrier, Michael. "The Duck Man." In Thompson and Lupoff, eds., *The Comic-Book Book*.

Barrier, Michael. "Screenwriter for a Duck: Carl Barks at the Disney Studio." *Funnyworld* 21 (Fall 1979): 8.

Barrier, Michael. "Starting Out in the Comics: Carl Barks Becomes the Duck Man." *Funnyworld* 22 (1981): 12.

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Summer, Edward. "Of Ducks and Men: Carl Barks Interviewed." *Panels* 2 (Spring 1981): 3.

On "Pogo" and Walt Kelly

Kelly, Walt. *Ten Ever-lovin' Blue-eyed Years with Pogo*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1959.

The Okefenokee Star. (Swamp Yankee Studios, P.O. Box 2311, Bridgeport, Connecticut 06608.) Issued with the cooperation of Kelly's estate, this magazine has published a great deal of rare material by and about Walt Kelly.

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On "The Spirit" and Will Eisner

Benson, John. "An Interview with Will Eisner." *Witzend* 6 (Spring 1969).

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Kyle, Richard. "Graphic Story Review." *Fantasy Illustrated (Graphic Story Magazine)* 6 (Summer/Fall 1966): 3.

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Benson, John. "Is War Hell? The Evolution of an Artist's Viewpoint." *Panels* 2 (Spring 1981): 18. On Harvey Kurtzman's war comic books.

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- Durwood, Tom. "Harvey Kurtzman." *Crimmer's* (No. 3) (Spring 1976): 23. An interview.
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- Spiegel, Ed. "Fanfare Interview: Editor of *Mad Magazine*, Al Feldstein." *Fanfare* 1 (Spring 1977): 16.
- Squa Tront* 6 (1975). An issue devoted to Bernard Krigstein. All issues of *Squa Tront* consist of material related to the E.C. comic books.
- Thompson, Don. "The Spawn of the Son of M. C. Gaines." In Thompson and Lupoff, eds., *The Comic-Book Book*.

Reprints

Comic-book features have been reprinted in books with increasing frequency in recent years. Considering only the features represented in this book, *Superman*, *Batman*, and *Captain Marvel* (under the title of its 1970s revival, *Shazam!*) have been the subjects of collections published by Crown. Two collections of Carl Barks's *Donald Duck* and *Uncle Scrooge* have been published by Abbeville Press, but take warning that in these books substantial alterations were made in Barks's drawings and in his original dialogue. A collection of Barks's *Uncle Scrooge*—lovingly prepared and quite expensive—was published by Celestial Arts in 1982.

Will Eisner's *The Spirit* is being reprinted, in black and white, in a handsome bimonthly magazine, *The Spirit*; the magazine also publishes new work by Eisner. (Kitchen Sink Enterprises, Box 7, Princeton, Wisconsin 54968)

All E.C. comic books from 1950 to 1955 are being reprinted in slipcased sets; each set reprints, in several volumes, the complete run of an E.C. title in black and white, from the original artwork. To date, five sets—*Weird Science*, *Tales from the Crypt*, *Two-Fisted Tales*, *Weird Fantasy*, and *Shock SuspenStories*—have been published. (Russ Cochran, P.O. Box 469, West Plains, Missouri 65775)

C. C. Beck (Captain Marvel), Harvey Kurtzman (*Mad* and the E.C. war features), and Will Eisner (the Spirit). Notes accompany each feature, giving biographical information on the creators and a brief history of the features' beginnings. The book ends with an annotated bibliography.

As a statement about the comic book at its very best, *A Smithsonian Book of Comic-Book Comics* is a glorious, creative statement indeed.

About the editors . . .

Michael Barrier, a native of Arkansas, is a graduate of Northwestern University and the University of Chicago Law School. He has worked as a lawyer and journalist in Little Rock, Atlanta, and Washington, D.C., as well as having been curator and author of the catalog for the Library of Congress exhibition on animation in 1978. He has written a book on the Warner Bros. cartoons (in press) and is completing a history of the Hollywood animation studios.

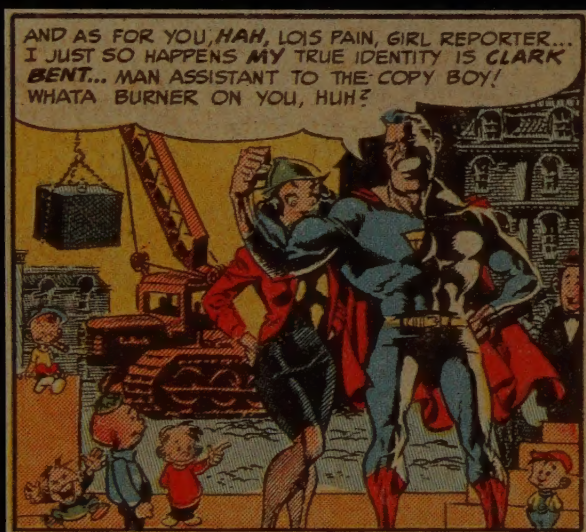
Martin Williams, a cultural historian at the Smithsonian Institution, has been an English teacher (Columbia University) and book editor (Macmillan), but most of his time has been spent as critic of the popular and performing arts. He is the co-editor of *The Smithsonian Collection of Newspaper Comics*, and his other books include: *The Jazz Tradition* and several other books on jazz; a biography, *Griffith: First Artist of the Movies*; and the recent TV: *The Casual Art*.



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